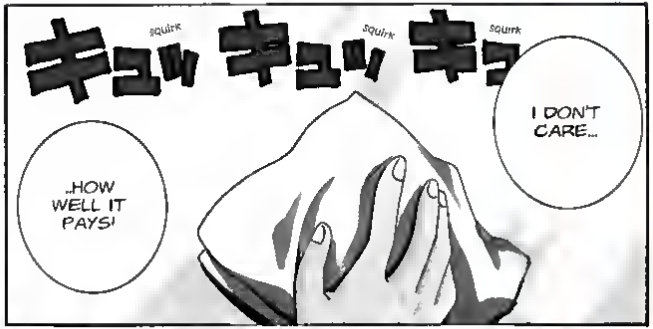
tactics

木下さくら
×
東山和子

11

天狗舞
木下さくら×東山和子
tactics.11



WHO MAKES A FAIR MAIDEN IN A LONG SLEEVED KIMONO WASH WINDOWS ON A HIGH RISE?!
QUIT YELLING YOUKO IT JUST MAKES THE SWAYING WORSE!
WE HAVE TO BRING HOME THE PORK SOMEHOW!

tactics

Sakura Kinoshita × Kazuko Higashiyama

11

Dragonfly Bead Anecdotes

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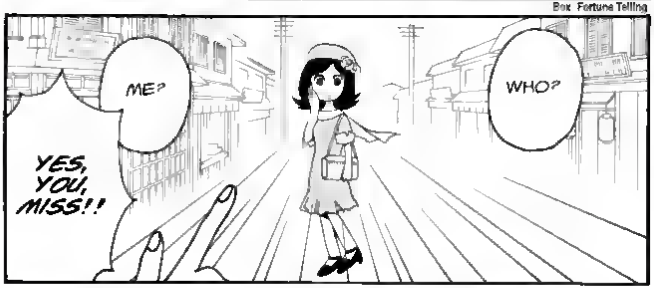
Dragonfly Bead Anecdotes

-Mamcki-neko-

Box Fortune Telling



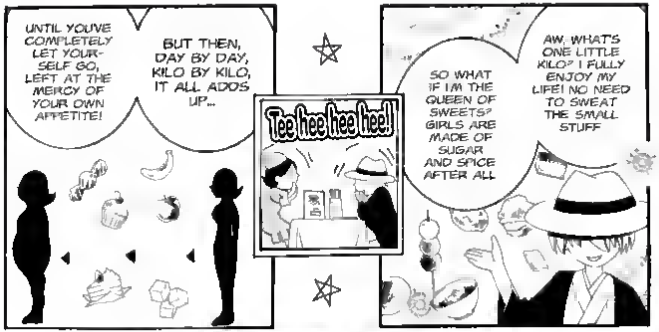
THAT'S IT! THAT MUST BE IT! ALAS, WHAT A WEIGHTY PREDICA-MENT
NOT THAT I KNOW OF...MY MARRIAGE IS IN GOOD SHAPE AND WE'RE IN NO TROUBLE AS FAR AS MONEY GOES.. ALTHOUGH I DID GAIN ONE KILO -
PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT..
ER I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT...
NOW THEN, HAS YOUR HOME SEEN ANY OMINOUS EVENTS RECENTLY?

tactics

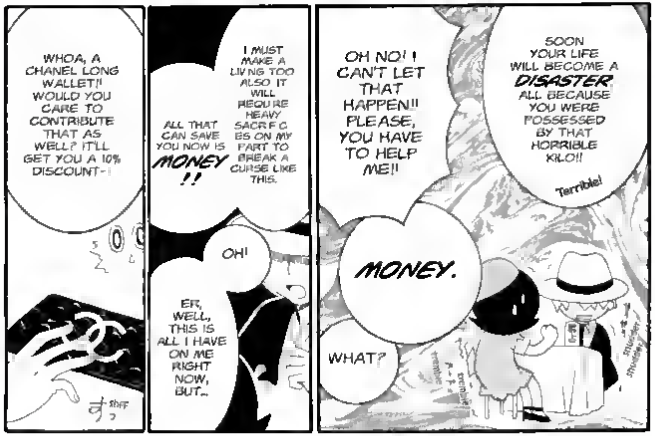
wham
HURK!

poke
BUT THIS GUY IS EVIL.
Y-YES, BUT...
YOU'RE FINE.
MISS ! SUGGEST YOU RUN QUICKLY
WAAAIT! COME BACK, MONEY-- ER, MISS!!
What?
dash
THEN IF YOU'LL PARDON ME...!

HOW COULD YOU, HARUKA ?!
Jerk!
NO, HOW COULD YOU!!
Drop dead!


UNTIL YOUVE COMPLETELY LET YOUR-SELF GO, LEFT AT THE MERCY OF YOUR OWN APPETITE!
BUT THEN, DAY BY DAY, KILO BY KILO, IT ALL ADDS UP...
Tee hee hee hee!
SO WHAT IF I'M THE QUEEN OF SWEETS? GIRLS ARE MADE OF SUGAR AND SPICE AFTER ALL
AW, WHAT'S ONE LITTLE KILO? I FULLY ENJOY MY LIFE! NO NEED TO SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

"IS THIS REALLY THE WOMAN I ONCE LOVED?" THE SEEDS OF DOUBT START TO TAKE ROOT IN THE CRACKS OF HIS HEART!!
WHAT WILL YOUR HUSBAND THINK WHEN HE SEES YOU LIKE THAT?

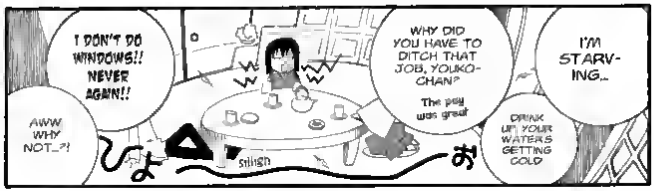

WHOA, A CHANEL LONG WALLET!! WOULD YOU CARE TO CONTRIBUTE THAT AS WELL? IT'LL GET YOU A 10% DISCOUNT-!
ALL THAT CAN SAVE YOU NOW IS MONEY !!
I MUST MAKE A LIVING TOO ALSO IT WILL REQUIRE HEAVY SACRIFICES ON MY PART TO BREAK A CURSE LIKE THIS.
OH!
ER, WELL, THIS IS ALL I HAVE ON ME RIGHT NOW, BUT...
OH NO!! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!! PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO HELP ME!!
SOON YOUR LIFE WILL BECOME A DISASTER ALL BECAUSE YOU WERE POSSESSED BY THAT HORRIBLE KILO!!
Terrible!
MONEY.
WHAT?

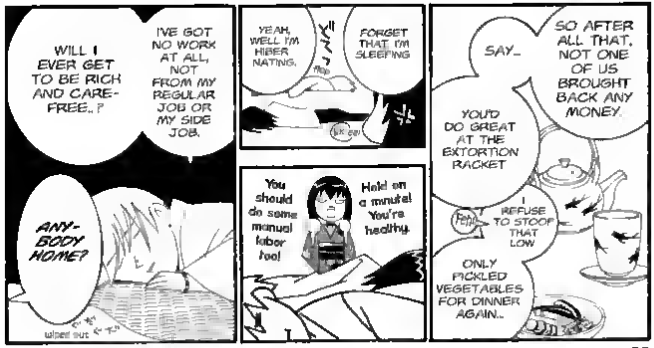
...
THE THING WITH LADY FUJI.
THAT DIDN'T REALLY COUNT AS WORK, DID IT?
FINE, OKAY, I'LL GET IT!
Hi-Ho-Hi-Ho

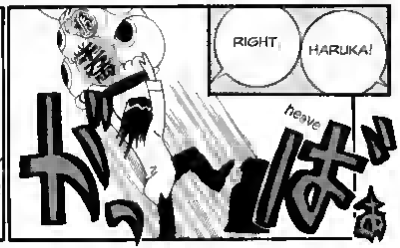
I DUNNO...
DO YOU THINK THAT WAS FOR THE BEST, HARUKA?

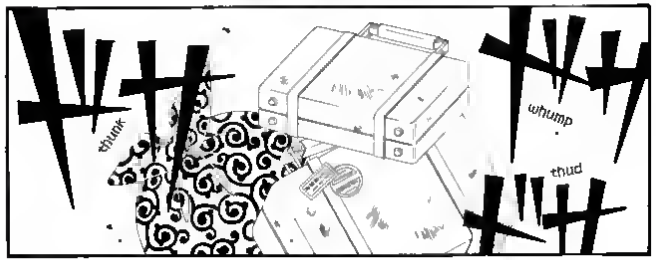
NOW THAT I CAN SAY THAT FUJI WAS MY FIRST MASTER...
BUT IT FEELS LIKE THIS BLACK HAZE INSIDE OF ME HAS CLEARED AWAY.

Eeeep...
Sigh...
Maaan...


I DON'T DO WINDOWS!! NEVER AGAIN!!
AWW WHY NOT...?!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DITCH THAT JOB, YOUKO-CHAN?
The pay was great
I'M STARV-ING...
DRINK UP, YOUR WATER'S GETTING COLD
sniff sniff


WILL I EVER GET TO BE RICH AND CARE-FREE..?
I'VE GOT NO WORK AT ALL, NOT FROM MY REGULAR JOB OR MY SIDE JOB.
ANY-BODY HOME?
YEAH, WELL I'M HIBER-NATING.
FORGET THAT I'M SLEEPING
You should do some manual labor too!
Hold on a minute! You're healthy.
SAY...
SO AFTER ALL THAT, NOT ONE OF US BROUGHT BACK ANY MONEY.
YOU'D DO GREAT AT THE EXTORTION RACKET
I REFUSE TO STOOP THAT LOW
ONLY PICKLED VEGETABLES FOR DINNER AGAIN..

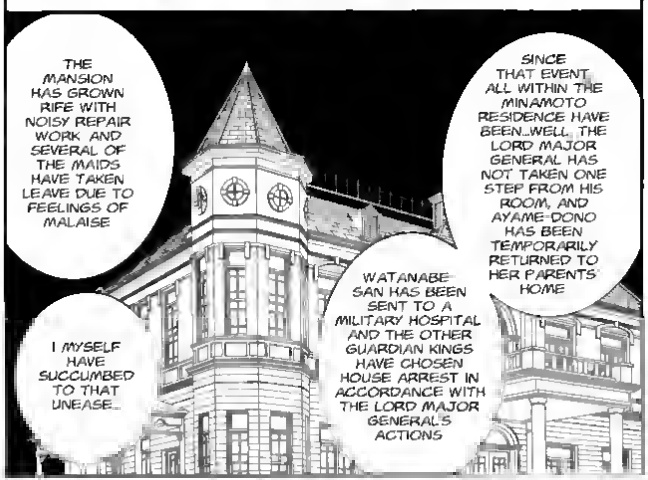




* Cat neck: Fortune
** Cat belly: 10 million ryo

JUST HOT WATER ?!
ONE COMPLAINT AND I KILL YOU.
MORE-OVER..
RUN AWAY?!

NO NO NO! YOU MUST FIRST HEAR MY STORY TO THE VERY END
HUH? I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE..
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT RITUAL.


THE MANSION HAS GROWN RIFE WITH NOISY REPAIR WORK AND SEVERAL OF THE MAIDS HAVE TAKEN LEAVE DUE TO FEELINGS OF MALAISE
I MYSELF HAVE SUCCUMBED TO THAT UNEASE..
WATANABE SAN HAS BEEN SENT TO A MILITARY HOSPITAL AND THE OTHER GUARDIAN KINGS HAVE CHOSEN HOUSE ARREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LORD MAJOR GENERAL'S ACTIONS
SINCE THAT EVENT ALL WITHIN THE MINAMOTO RESIDENCE HAVE BEEN...WELL, THE LORD MAJOR GENERAL HAS NOT TAKEN ONE STEP FROM HIS ROOM, AND AYAME-DONO HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY RETURNED TO HER PARENTS' HOME

OH MY..
HAVE I INTERRUPTED SOMETHING?"
..DO YOU WANT FROM US?!
WHAT THE HECK..
EDWARDS

JUST BORE-DOM..
chirp chirp
tweet
MM... WELL, ACTUALLY ...

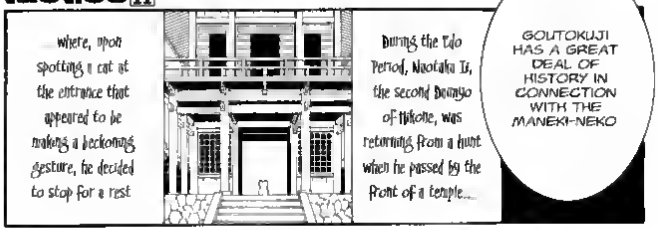
..FROM THE MINAMOTO RESIDENCE
ACTUALLY, I HAVE RUN AWAY...
Smile
NO WAY, JOSE!
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS JERK BROKE MY ARM ONCE!!
HE'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE! GET RID OF HIM, QUICK!!
THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S FROM THE MINAMOTO SIDE AND HIS APPEARANCE ALONE SCORES A PERFECT 10 IN SUSPICIOUSNESS.
B-B-Bwa ha ha!
SO, WHY WOULD A GUY LIKE HIM COME HERE KAN TAROU?"
Kan
THE OFFENDER DOESN'T GET TO TALK
Now now
WELL, LET US ALL JUST CALM DOWN AND TALK ABOUT THIS PEACEABLY

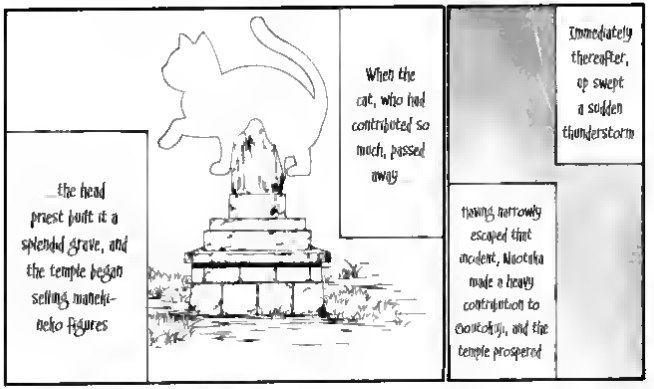
MIGHT I ASK YOU TO SEARCH FOR IT WITH ME?
YOU MEAN..
YEAH, THE CAT..
THE CAT IS.
EDWARDS AND THE MANEKI NEKO LOOK SO MUCH ALIKE I CAN HARDLY TELL WHICH ONE IS THE CAT
THERE IS SAID TO BE A MANEKI NEKO THAT BRINGS GREATER BLESSINGS THAN ANY OTHER.
LEGEND ARY?
KAN-TAROU SAN!
ARE YOU AWARE OF THE "LEGENDARY MANEKI-NEKO"?

NO WAY! THE JOB'S TOO SMALL!
TEMPURA, TEMPURA I CAN TASTE THE TEMPURA !!
IT'S WORK !!
THEN I CAN TASTE BEEF HOT-POT..
AHA HA HA! SETTLE DOWN, YOU COM-MONERS.
YES, KANTAROU-SAN! I AM ON A QUEST FOR THE LEGENDARY MANEKI-NEKO..
...AND HAVE COME TO HIRE YOUR SERVICES IN THIS TASK. WOULD THAT SUIT YOU?

...
FOR THE PRESENT, I HAVE CHECKED OUT OF THE IMPERIAL HOTEL.
SO I HAVE ALSO DECIDED TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM THE MINAMOTO CLAN TEMPO RARILY

So Many Maneki Neko!!
AHAHAHAHA
YOU'VE DROPPED HAKA-MANIA..
FOR MANEKI-NEKO MADNESS?!
INDEED I HAVE! WHO COULD POSSIBLY RESIST THE CHARMS OF THIS SMILE?


...where, upon spotting a cat at the entrance that appeared to be making a beckoning gesture, he decided to stop for a rest
During the Edo Period, Naotaka Ii, the second Daimyo of Hikone, was returning from a hunt when he passed by the front of a temple...
GOUTOKUJI HAS A GREAT DEAL OF HISTORY IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANEKI-NEKO

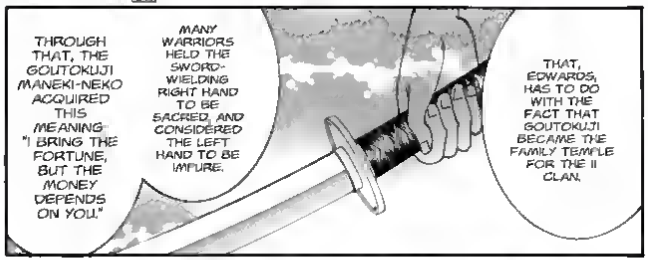

...the head priest built it a splendid grave, and the temple began selling maneki-neko figures
When the cat, who had contributed so much, passed away...
Immediately thereafter, up swept a sudden thunderstorm
Having narrowly escaped that incident, Naotaka made a heavy contribution to Goutokuji, and the temple prospered

...
...BE SOMEWHAT INDEBTED TO YOU, EVEN IF ONLY..
...FOR THE FACT THAT I CAN BE STANDING HERE, RIGHT NOW.

TO YOU?! WHY WOULD I?
OUCH...
I WONDER IF YOU'LL REPAY YOUR DEBT TO ME SOMEDAY AS WELL, HARUKA..
TRUE, I MIGHT..
WELL...

glitter
glitter
IT IS SAID THAT THE LEGENDARY MANEKI-NEKO SPARKLES IN SEVEN BRILLIANT COLORS
I ABSOLUTELY MUST SEE THAT MANEKI-NEKO IN ALL ITS SEVEN-COLORED GLORY!
Wag-hoo!
SUPERB!
WITH SUCH SPLENDID QUALITIES, IT OUGHT TO BE EASY FOR US TO RECOGNIZE IT AT A GLANCE.
AND WITH SO MANY STORIES TO GUIDE US, WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND IT RIGHT AWAY
AND SURELY, ITS BLESSINGS WILL BE JUST AS AMAZING.

A TEMPLE?
WELL EDWARDS, FOR MANEKI NEKO GOUTO KUJI TEMPLE IS THE BEST PLACE TO START
THEN..
...WHERE ARE WE HEADING FIRST?


THROUGH THAT, THE GOUTOKUJI MANEKI-NEKO ACQUIRED THIS MEANING: "I BRING THE FORTUNE, BUT THE MONEY DEPENDS ON YOU."
MANY WARRIORS HELD THE SWORD-WIELDING RIGHT HAND TO BE SACRED, AND CONSIDERED THE LEFT HAND TO BE IMPURE.
THAT, EDWARDS, HAS TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT GOUTOKUJI BECAME THE FAMILY TEMPLE FOR THE II CLAN.

...BUT SOME ARE NOW BEING MADE IN DIFFERENT COLORS, WITH THEIR OWN SHADES OF MEANING: BLACK WARDS OFF EVIL, GOLD BRINGS PROSPERITY, AND RED BRINGS GOOD HEALTH.
INCIDENTALLY, IT'S CUSTOMARY FOR THE CATS TO BE THE TRADITIONAL THREE COLORS.
Cats raising the right paw are for welcoming money, while cats raising the left paw are for welcoming customers

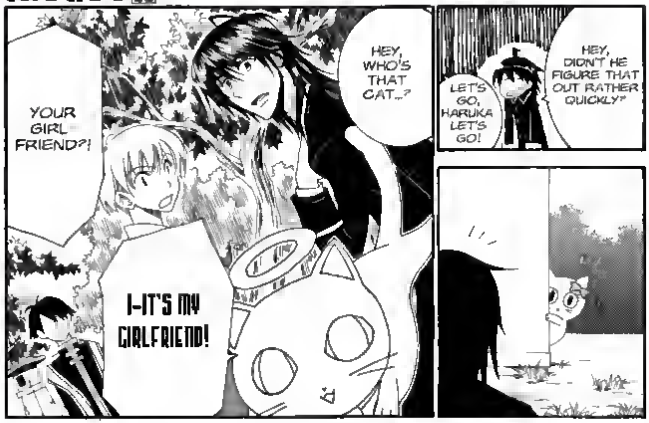
Sign: Shoubyouden

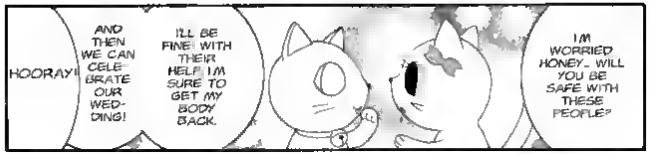
OH? BUT YOU CAN BUY THINGS OTHER THAN MANEKI-NEKO HERE
NOW WHERE COULD THAT SEVEN-COLOR MANEKI-NEKO BE?
WELL THEN SHALL WE MOVE ON TO THE SHOUBYOU-DEN?
SHOU-BYOU-DEN?
QUITE CORRECT, FATHER EDWARDS.
Take here, here
...
Take here, here
WHICH MEANS THAT A SEVEN-COLOR MANEKI-NEKO SHOULD BRING QUIIITE THE FORTUNE EH KANTAROU SAN?
IT'S THE AREA DEDICATED TO THE MANEKI NEKO
招猫殿

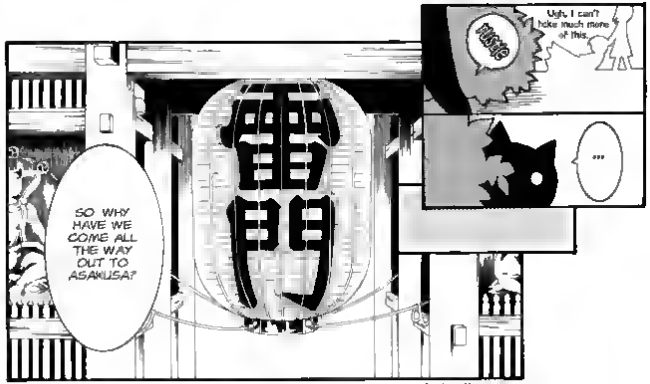
HARUKA, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HAVING RECOVERED YOUR FULL YOUKAI POWER...
...AND YOUR ABILITY TO BECOME THE "KOUSHIN-EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU"?

BUT WE SEEM TO HAVE ARRIVED AT GOUTOKUJI.
PARDON ME..
...
BEING ABLE TO USE MY POWER TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL COULD BRING ITS OWN DISADVANTAGES.

I COULD HAVE SWORN THAT THE ONES IN MY COLLECTION WERE ALL HOLDING KOBAN.
ALL THE MANEKI NEKO SOLD HERE HAVE THEIR RIGHT PAW RAISED BUT NONE OF THEM ARE HOLDING THE TYPICAL KOBAN COIN
IN COMMEMORATION I HAVE BOUGHT A MANEKI NEKO FIGURE. IS IT NOT ADORABLE?
THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH.!




HOORAY!
AND THEN WE CAN CELEBRATE OUR WEDDING!
I'LL BE FINE WITH THEIR HELP. I'M SURE TO GET MY BODY BACK.
I'M WORRIED HONEY... WILL YOU BE SAFE WITH THESE PEOPLE?



Lantern Kaminarimon

Sign: Cat Council

HUH? WHO DO YOU MEAN?
IT MUST BE... HIM...
NNRRAAGGH!

HIT SCARES ME TO SAY THIS BUT...

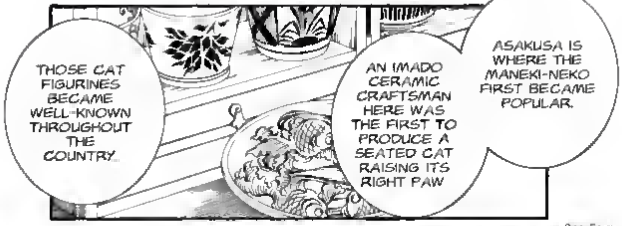
Creeeak, Creeeak
LEAVE THIS TO ME
MAYBE SOMEONE'S TRYING TO KEEP OUR SEVEN-COLORED FRIEND FROM GETTING HIS BODY BACK.
MM-HM...
THAT APPEARS TO BE THE CASE.

どせー
bwoosh

snap
PUT SOME SPIRIT INTO IT...
AND OPEN!
Wow, the knobs came off?!

Slurrrp!

NOT THE RICE BRAN!
PICK-LES?!
GAAAH! WHAT IS THIS CRAP?!


THOSE CAT FIGURINES BECAME WELL-KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.
AN IMADO CERAMIC CRAFTSMAN HERE WAS THE FIRST TO PRODUCE A SEATED CAT RAISING ITS RIGHT PAW
ASAKUSA IS WHERE THE MANEKI-NEKO FIRST BECAME POPULAR.

Sgt. Pawn

THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME SO LEGEND-ARY!
IN-DEED!
CAN YOU REALLY DO THAT?!
AMAZING! WHAT A HANDY LEGEND!
LAME LEGEND...

SO, UH, IS THIS THE PLACE?
質
ABSO-LUTELY, I USED MY REMOTE SENSING CAPABILI-TIES TO DETECT IT

I'M AFRAID SO THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH MY BODY
IT APPEARS THAT A SPELL HAS BEEN CAST ON THESE DOORS TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING OPENED

HARUKAAA, THAT DOOR HIT MEEE! WAAAAH...
whilline
SHAD DUP, CRY BABY.

ANY-BODY THERE?
?!
ん

I'M GONNA PERSUADE THE GOBLIN CAT
OH, THEN YOU WILL TAKE OUT THE ENEMY USING JAPANESE SPELLS?!
NOPE.
WELL, I ADMIT THE REWARDS FOR SUCCESS ARE PLENTY ATTRACTIVE...
...BUT I ALSO CAN'T LEAVE OUR SEVEN COLORED FRIEND IN TROUBLE.
PART
...SHEESH, HE'S ALWAYS THE SAME
PERSUADE IT?

DON'T YOU FORGET THAT, YOU FAKE PRIEST.
BUT THEN, PERSUASION IS HIS WAY OF EXORCISING YOUKAI.

ER... YES.
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
PERHAPS THE PAWNSHOP OWNER MAKES PICKLES AS A HOBBY?
NO, THEY WOULDN'T LEAVE THEM AT THE FRONT OF THE STORE.
WHY WOULD A SHOWER OF PICKLED VEGETABLES COME FLYING OUT OF A PAWN SHOP?
THAT WAS BIZARRE

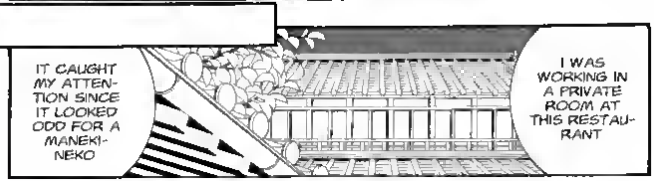
WITH PICKLES?
YES.
HE USES HIS DELUSIONS TO CURSE ALL WHO FACE HIM, LEADING THEM TO RUIN
MYOOWWW!!!
THE CULPRIT IS PROBABLY A GOBLIN CAT WHO'S BEEN ALIVE FOR OVER 100 YEARS.

MY HOBBIES ARE MY LIFE!
THEN GET A REAL LIFE ALREADY"
DON'T LEAVE US, HARUKA-SAN! PLEASE YOU HAVE TO SAVE ME!
YOU'RE NOT DYING, IT'S JUST A HOBBY!
I'LL HELP YOU
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HUMILIATED IN ALL MY LIFE!
LUCKY HARUKA... EVEN NOW YOU STILL LOOK RADIANT!
I'M DROPPING OUT...

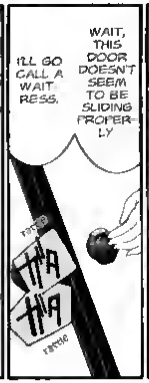
Aha ha ha ha!
AHA HA, IT SURE IS!
AHA HA, THAT'S FUNNY!

ACTUALLY... WE'RE SEARCHING FOR THE LEGENDARY MANEKI-NEKO THAT GLITTERS IN SEVEN COLORS.
I'M SURE ITS BLESSINGS ARE GOING TO BE AMAZING.
unique
unique

Whaaat!
SINCE I SAW IT NOT LONG AGO


IT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION SINCE IT LOOKED ODD FOR A MANEKI-NEKO
I WAS WORKING IN A PRIVATE ROOM AT THIS RESTAURANT

...OKAY, SHALL WE GO AHEAD AND START?
rummage


I'LL GO CALL A WAITRESS.
WAIT, THIS DOOR DOESN'T SEEM TO BE SLIDING PROPERLY
HA HA
rattle

HM?
Let's go! Yukko-chan too!
WE CERTAINLY ARE LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND IT SO QUICKLY
AT THIS RATE WE SHOULD BE HAVING A CELEBRATORY BANQUET SOON!

OH MY!
YAKKO-CHAN!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES, KANTAROU.

MY!
THIS IS FATHER EDWARDS. HE'S A MISSIONARY AND A WEALTHY MAN TOO
AND WHO MIGHT THIS FOREIGN GENTLE MAN BE?
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE EITHER HARUKA DARLING!

WAIT, WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT, YAKKO CHAN?
NO SORRY, MY WORK'S AS UNPROFITABLE AS EVER.
YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF BUSINESS LATELY, HAVEN'T YOU? YOU REALLY NEED TO BOOK MORE PRIVATE PARTIES, AND DESIGNATE ME AS THE GEISHA!!
Hmf
Eep!

UH, WELL...
SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN ASAKUSA?
THREE MEN ON A STROLL LOOK RATHER SUSPICIOUS.
THIS LADY IS MY CHILD HOOD FRIEND, YAKKO CHAN.
I AM CALLED YAKKO
営業スマイル。
Business Smile
FEEL FREE TO ENGAGE MY ARTISTIC SERVICES FOR BANQUETS, DRINKING PARTIES LAUNCH EVENTS AND BIRTHDAYS!

OH YOU, HASUMI SUCH A FLIRT!
Ha ha, once again I'm like a honey-bee entranced by a beautiful lily.
FROM MISTER HASUMI HE HAS MANY ACQUAINTANCES TO ENTERTAIN, AND CALLS FOR MY SERVICES QUITE OFTEN.

ストトトト
plup plup plup
HM
munch
もぐもぐ
munch
THESE PICKLES REALLY AREN'T HALF BAD
They're edible?!
HARUKA!
slash
slash

shuff
STILL, I MUCH PREFER THE TASTE OF YOUKO'S PICKLED VEGETABLES.

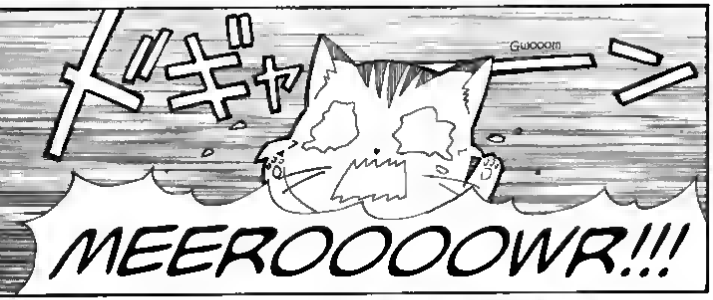
shhunk
AUGH!
punch
COME OUT, COME OUT, GOBLIN CAT!
pulp

HERE COMES THE SECOND WAVE!!
ssssssh
I'M AFRAID I CAN DO NOTHING WITHOUT A BODY
YOU'RE USELESS!!
WHAT?! I THOUGHT I MIGHT SUMMON A DEVIL TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY
STOP! YOU'LL BLOW AWAY THE BUILDING!!
NOT ANOTHER BARRAGE OF PICKLES!
HEY WAIT. WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

WHAT THE HECK? WHY'D HE GET SO...
HEH HEH HEH...
I JUST WANT TO LEAVE THIS LUXURIOUS PLACE AND CRAWL INTO A DIRT-CHEAP SINGLE IN A BEAT-UP ROW HOUSE WITH BARE FLOORS AND POOR INSULATION...!
MY STRENGTH HAS FADED AWAY...
stupefish
THEY CAN CONSUME ONLY THE FOOD MOST SYNONYMOUS WITH POVERTY PICKLED VEGETABLES!
HEY!! DON'T GO INSULTING PICKLE MAKERS!!
Some of them are expensive too!
THOSE I TOUCH ARE CURSED TO HATE ALL LUXURY AND PREFER AN IMPOVERISHED LIFESTYLE.
THEY CALL ME THE "PAW OF POVERTY!"
jolt
URG!
WAH HA HA! ONCE YOU FEEL MY TOUCH, YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK...
HE'LL TURN THE LEGENDARY DEMON EAT ING TENGU INTO CHEAP TRASH!
stench
Gack!
AUGH !!!
leap
I'LL GET YOU NEXT!

SO IT WAS YOU!
GAACK!
poom
zuiip
OHO? WHAT IS THIS?
OH GOSH!
OHO?
SILENCE! KNOW THE HORROR OF MY TRUE POWER!
leap!
VEN-GEANCE? DID YOU DO SOME-THING?
UH, WELL, YOU SEE, I...
YOU BASTARD! I WILL HAVE MY VEN-GEANCE!

...BOUR-GEOIS!!
IS ALLERGIC TO EVERY-THING...
Pap pa-pa pa-pah pah pahaah!
Boom!


Gwoooom
MEEROOOOWR!!!

yoink
D-DAMN IT!
I CAN'T LET THEM DEFEAT ME THIS EASILY...!
NO! NOT THE SUSHI BOAT!
slide
slide
FEAST YOUR EYES...

B-BUT HOW...?
HUH?

I TOUCHED YOU, YET YOU SHOW NO TRACE OF PEASANT AURA!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO AWFULLY THIN!!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

bloom
WHAT?

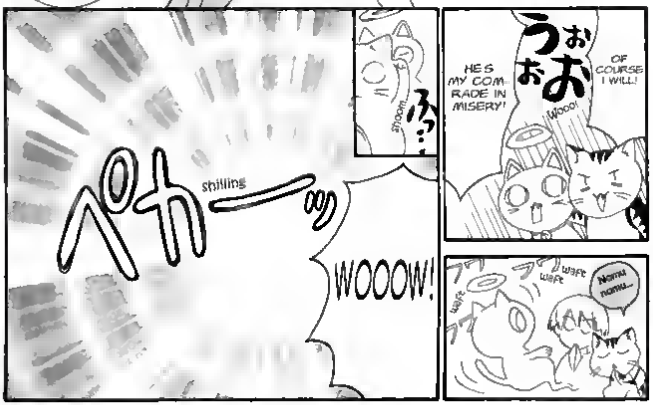
THIS CAT OF POVERTY
flourish
ta-dah

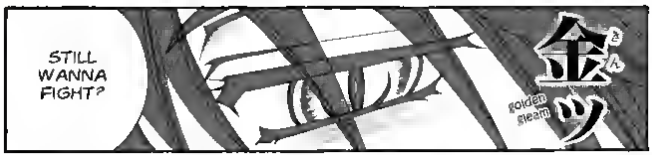
I'VE GOT IT!

staggr
I CAN'T... BREATHE...
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER...!
staggr

AND OVER IN THAT ALCOVE...
OH! I CAN FINALLY ENTER THE ROOM NOW.
SO IT WAS ALL A LOVER'S SPAT JUST WITH CATS.
IT SEEMS THAT WENCH WAS PLAYING US FOR CHUMPS.
OKAY, WE'VE SETTLED THE MATTER!
Pretty quickly too.

WILL YOU HELP ME RETURN OUR SEVEN-COLORED FRIEND'S SOUL TO HIS BODY?
WELL, POVERTY CAT..?
COULD THAT BE THE SEVEN-COLOR MANEKI-NEKO?
IT IS GLITTERING LESS THAN I EXPECTED..
Scroll Narcissism


ペカー
shining
WOOOW!
ふふ?
うおお
Woooo!
HE'S MY COMRADE IN MISERY!
OF COURSE I WILL!
Wara wara
Nomi nomi...


STILL WANNA FIGHT?
金
Golden Steam
ン

NO I DIDN'T! SHE TOLD ME SHE DIDN'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND, SO WHY WOULDN'T I-
SHE WAS TWO-TIMING ME?!
SHE SWORE THE SAME WITH ME! HA HA HA HA!
NO WAY! THAT BASTARD TOOK MY WOMAN!!
WE SWORE WE'D BE TOGETHER FOREVER!
IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TWO TO TRY PATCHING THINGS UP!
meow
IT'S ALL RIGHT
I'M SORRY FOR ALL I'VE DONE! PLEASE, SAVE ME!!
BUT SINCE THIS MESS ALL HAPPENED BECAUSE OF YOUR FIERCE TEMPER, WHY NOT HAVE A GOOD TALK ABOUT IT WITH THAT LITTLE GUY?
YOU REALLY ARE THE LEGENDARY KOUSHIN EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU-!
EYES OF GOLD... SO GORGEOUS! THEN...
Eeek!
Ah wah wah wah wah!

I THINK IT'S MORE CHIC, ANYWAY
BUT AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER, SEEING SOMETHING "VALUABLE" JUST MADE ME WANT TO USE IT FOR FOOLISH PURPOSES
YOU THINK MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE USED MY YOUKAI POWER JUST TO INTIMIDATE A CAT?
..GUESS I FEEL MUCH THE SAME WAY
THROWING PEARLS BEFORE SWINE IS BASICALLY MY HOBBY
I DID IT BECAUSE YOU SAID TO THOUGH.
ALTHOUGH MY POWERS ARE BACK, NOTHING'S REALLY CHANGED
EH, YOUR NORMAL APPEARANCE IS INTIMIDATING ENOUGH.

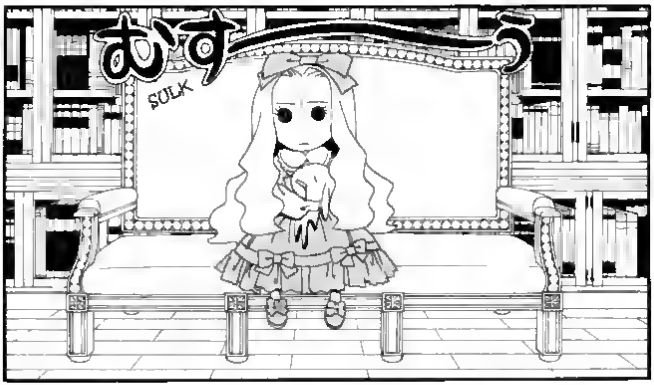
I NEVER KNEW JUST HOW COMFORTING THAT COULD BE

I AM THIS MANEKI NEKO HAS FURGED ME OF MY IMPURE WORLDLY DESIRE.
ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT, EDWARDS?
You really wanted this cat.
IF HE WISHES TO REMAIN HERE, I COULD NOT DENY HIM THAT
I'll thank you by fixing this door!
Purr!
AFTER BEING DECEIVED BY FEMININE WILES, I FEAR I HAVE MUCH YET TO LEARN. COULD I STAY HERE TO PRACTICE MY SELF-DISCIPLINE?
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR FINDING MY BODY
DON'T YOU DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN GLITTER?!
C'MON!
Where's my blessing?!
THIS IS A GLORIOUS ENOUGH MIRACLE FOR ME! MY SOUL FEELS AS THOUGH IT HAS BEEN CLEANSED
Yahoo! Let's party hearty! Wah ha ha ha!
SHALL WE BEGIN THE BANQUET?
I'VE BROUGHT MISS YOUKO ALONG TO BRIGHTEN UP THE PLACE, AND SO NOW THAT WE ARE ALL GATHERED HERE...
OH MY! DID YOU FIX THE SLIDING DOOR?
HEY...

The Next Day
WELL, IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE THAT POVERTY GOD POSSESSED ME...
SO WHAT ABOUT HOUSE HUNTING?
AND MY COMPENSATION...
Bowing.
GOOD MORNING THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LAST NIGHT'S BANQUET
WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO ALLOW ME TO CRASH HERE FOR A WHILE?
Tee hee!
...BUT I USED UP ALL OF MY FUNDS ON THAT ENORMOUS BANQUET
WHICH MEANS I AM NOW BROKE
NOPE HOW ABOUT YOU GET OUT OF MY HOUSE?!
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT... COME, ENJOY SOME PICKLES WITH ME!
WITHOUT YOUR MONEY, YOU'RE JUST A CREEPY ENEMY!
WHAT?!

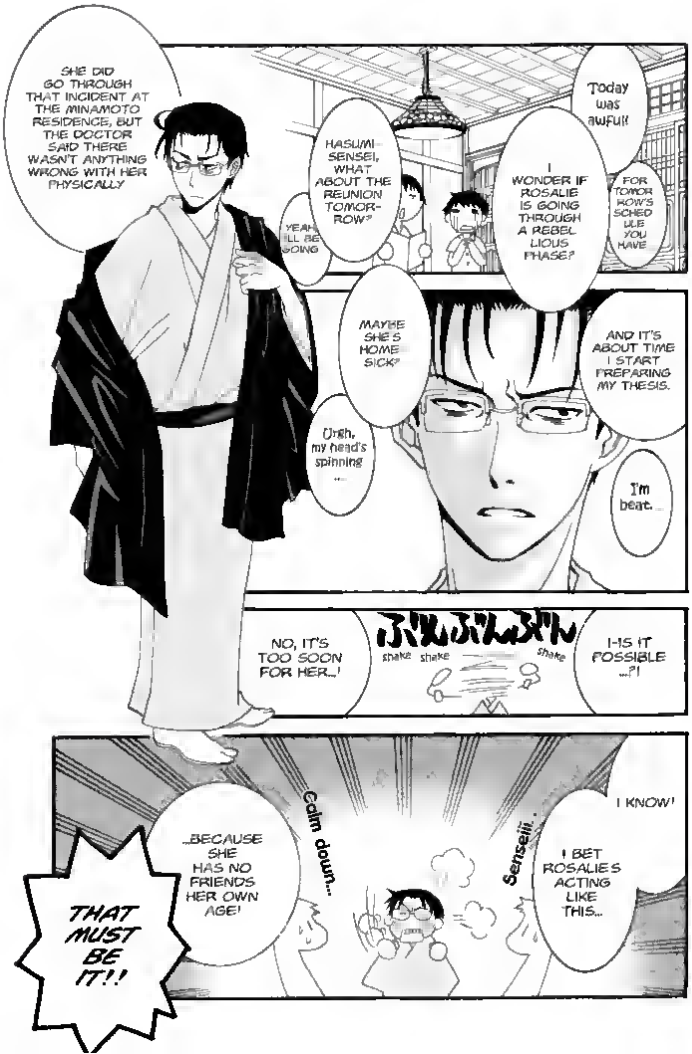
GULP
GOODNESS, PARDON M--
SCORCH
SCORCH
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER

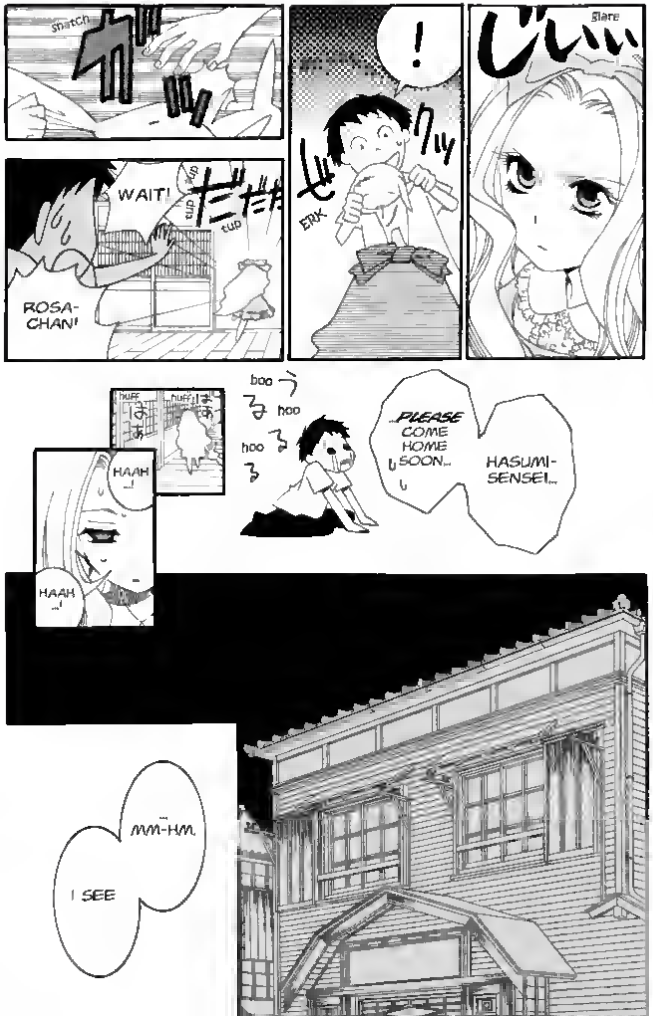
Dragonfly Bead Anecdotes
-Rosalie-

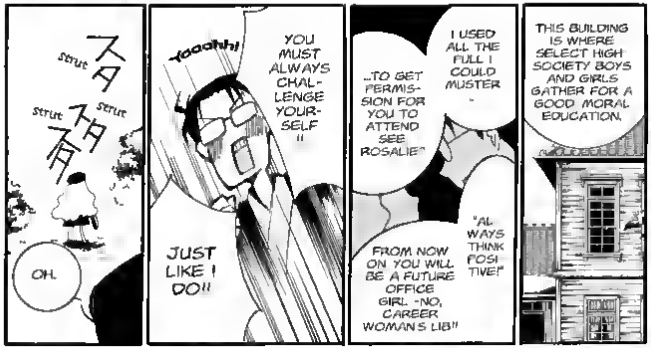

むすーう
SULK

ROSA CHAAAN
PLAY WITH MEEEE !!
yoink
IT'S NICE OUTSIDE, WANNA TAKE A WALK?
SO, WANNA PLAY HOUSE?
smile smile
WELL, HEL-LO, ROSALIE CHAN! UNTIL SENSEI GETS BACK, YOU AND I ARE GONNA BE BEST PALS!!

tactics


SHE DID GO THROUGH THAT INCIDENT AT THE MINAMOTO RESIDENCE, BUT THE DOCTOR SAID THERE WASN'T ANYTHING WRONG WITH HER PHYSICALLY
Today was awful!
I WONDER IF ROSALIE IS GOING THROUGH A REBELLIOUS PHASE?
FOR TOMORROW'S SCHEDULE YOU HAVE
HASUMI-SENSEI, WHAT ABOUT THE REUNION TOMORROW?
YEAH, I'LL BE GOING
AND IT'S ABOUT TIME I START PREPARING MY THESIS.
I'm beat...
MAYBE SHE'S HOME SICK?
Urgh, my head's spinning...
NO, IT'S TOO SOON FOR HER...!
shake shake shake
I-IS IT POSSIBLE ...?!
THAT MUST BE IT!!
...BECAUSE SHE HAS NO FRIENDS HER OWN AGE!
Calm down...
Sensei!!
I KNOW!
I BET ROSALIE'S ACTING LIKE THIS...


snatch
!
stare
じいい
WAIT!
dig dig dig
ROSA-CHAN!
EEK
huff huff
HAAH...!
HAAH...!
boo hoo hoo hoo
...PLEASE COME HOME SOON...
HASUMI-SENSEI...
...MM-HM.
I SEE


スタ
strut
strut
strut
OH.
Yaaahh!
YOU MUST ALWAYS CHALLENGE YOURSELF !!
JUST LIKE I DO!!
..TO GET PERMISSION FOR YOU TO ATTEND SEE ROSALIE"
I USED ALL THE FULL I COULD MUSTER
FROM NOW ON YOU WILL BE A FUTURE OFFICE GIRL. -NO, CAREER WOMAN'S LIB!!
"ALWAYS THINK POSITIVE!"
THIS BUILDING IS WHERE SELECT HIGH SOCIETY BOYS AND GIRLS GATHER FOR A GOOD MORAL EDUCATION.

* Papers on Wall: clockwise from upper left: Happy Birthd. Old Legend. Take Care With Fire. Boys Day Doll

gawk
じろ
じろ
gape
gawk
じろ
* Chalkboard: Rosalie Hasumi
Whoa!
ゆあ
THINK MAYBE SHE'S AN ALIEN?!
Bloomp
BLUE EYES LIKE MARBLES!
ゆぁ
Whoa!
IT'S A LIVING DOLL!
WHITE HAIR?!
ゆぁ
Whoa!
すとん。
Plop
OKAY, LET'S HAVE YOU SIT OVER THERE.

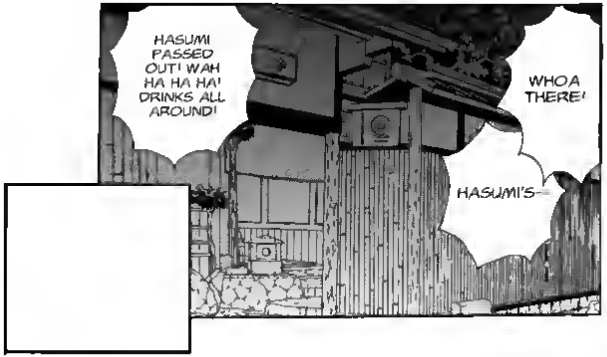
Gasp!
Ah! Hff
Hack!
NOOOOO!!

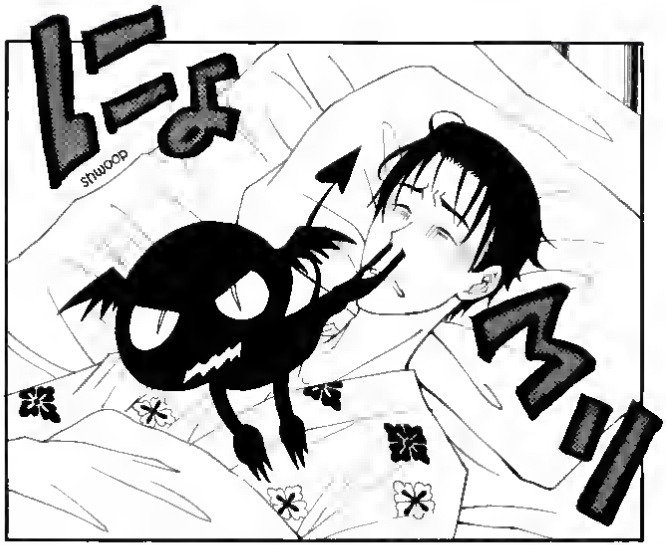
OH? BUT HE NEVER LOOKS GOOD
HRM.
YOUR COLOR ISN'T VERY GOOD TODAY
SHUT IT, ICHINO MIYA. JUST LEAVE AL-READY
YOU'VE BEEN DOING EVER SO MUCH WORK LATELY, MR HASUMI
BUT IF SHE FEELS LONESOME WITHOUT ME, THEN WHY DIDN'T SHE COME WITH ME TONIGHT? I INVITED HER ALONG
I WONDER... MAYBE SHE SEEMS SO DISTANT BECAUSE SHE ACTS SO MATURE FOR HER AGE.
A-ARE YOU INSANE?! WHY AT YOUR HOUSE ...?!
OR RATHER, HOW COULD YOU EVEN LET THAT GUY IN?!
slip
SPEAK-ING OF...
OH, MR HASUMI YOU'RE SO DENSE!
FROM HER POINT OF VIEW, I'M THE ENEMY
ED WARDS IS CRASH-ING AT MY PLACE RIGHT NOW
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN "ENEMY"?
THINK ON IT WELL, ALL RIGHT? THERE WILL BE A QUIZ!

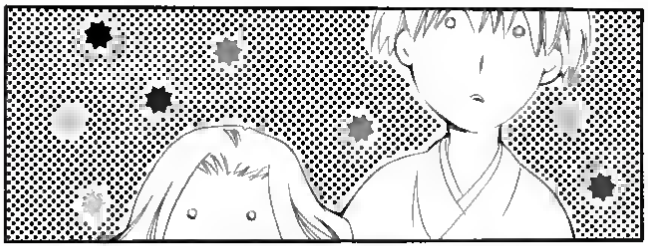
groan
slurp
shake shake shake
light-speed
ARE YOU SURE? YOU MUST WANT FRIENDS.
nod nod nod
SO YOU DON'T WANT ANY FRIENDS?
Shlish
Ouu my head...
GOOD GRIEF, HOW CAN WE GET OUR PRINCESS FEELING BETTER?
SO, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO, ROSALIE?
FINE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL ANY-MORE.
Humph!
Here, drink up.
...WHEN-EVER YOU'RE NOT THERE TO LOOK AFTER HER
WELL, YOU SEE, MR. HASUMI, SHE FEELS LONE-SOME...

HE KINDA COLLAPSED AT OUR GET-TOGETHER...
Could I get a hand here?
He's heavy.
GOOD EVENING!
RYOU-KAN!!
HIS BED IS THIS WAY!!
I'LL FETCH SOME WATER!
SENSEI!!
Oof
ONCE AGAIN I'M IN YOUR DEBT, ICHI-NOMIYA.
Oof
YOU TAIF-OON
FEEL FREE TO PAY ME BACK IN CASH.
DON'T WORRY, ROSALIE IT'S JUST OVERWORK. I'LL BE BETTER SOON

wobble
IT'S JUST YOU REALLY CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL WHEN DEALING WITH THAT... MAN...
AGAIN WITH YOUR DAMN TACTIC OF DODGING THE QUES-TION...
WHY INDEED?
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY. I'LL HEAD HOME NOW
sip
OF COURSE YOU WON'T
I WON'T LET ROSA-CHAN BE HARMED IN ANY WAY
There is no such thing as an exorcist in the Anglican Church

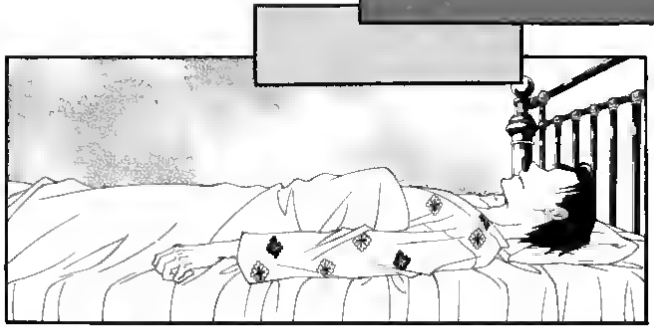

HASUMI PASSED OUT! WAH HA HA HA! DRINKS ALL AROUND!
WHOA THERE!
HASUMI'S—

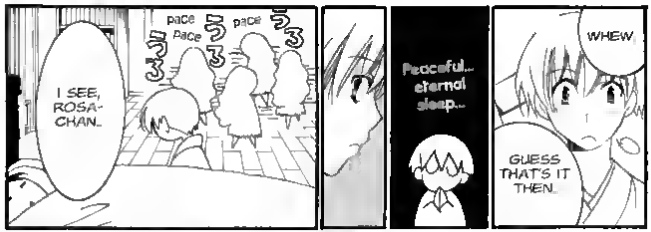

shuuoo
Mu!!

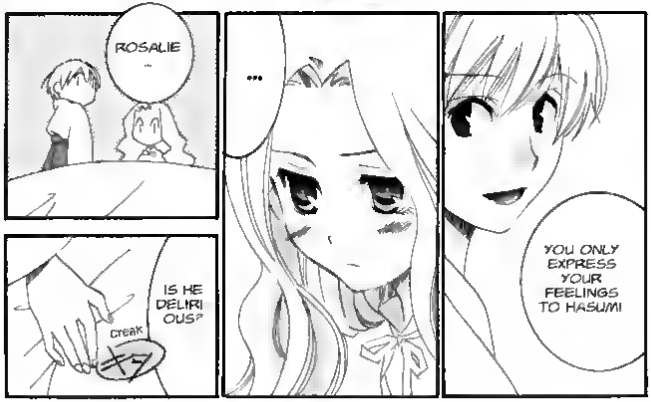


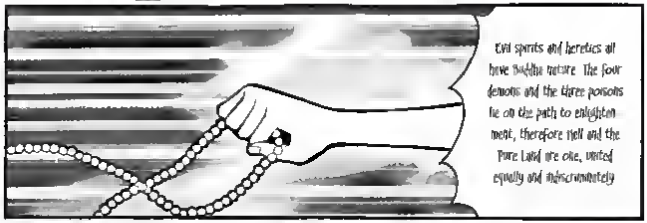
WHY ARE YOU POSSESSING HIM?
A WESTERN MONSTER, HUH... WAIT ARE YOU THE REASON HASUMI COLLAPSED?

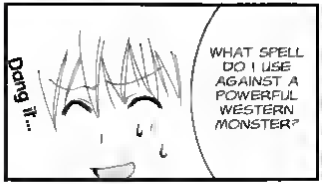
I'M A DEVIL! SHUT UP ALREADY!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!
Wow!
Wow!




I SEE, ROSA-CHAN.
pace pace pace
Peaceful... eternal sleep...
WHEW
GUESS THAT'S IT THEN.


ROSALIE
...
YOU ONLY EXPRESS YOUR FEELINGS TO HASUMI
IS HE DELIRIOUS?
creak


Evil spirits and heretics all have Buddha nature. The four demonic and the three poisons lie on the path to enlightenment, therefore Hell and the Pure Land are one, united equally and indiscriminately


Dang it...
WHAT SPELL DO I USE AGAINST A POWERFUL WESTERN MONSTER?

Zwip
IT DIDN'T WORK
URG!

...THIS ONE?!
HOW ABOUT..

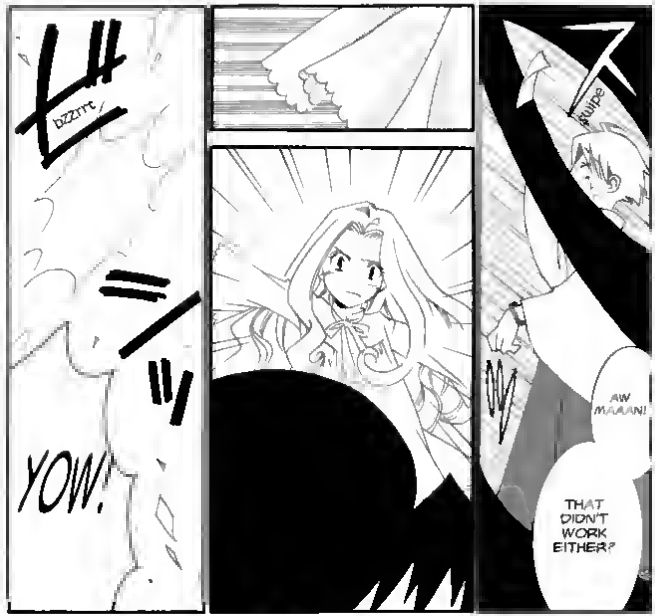
SO YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN. TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THE IMPROPER RECEPTION.
NO, NO, IT'S FINE...
YOU ALL SCREWED UP YOUR DEVIL-SUMMONING...
...AND LEFT ME STRANDED IN THE MORTAL REALM!
...THAT GIRL'S FAULT
IT'S ALL...

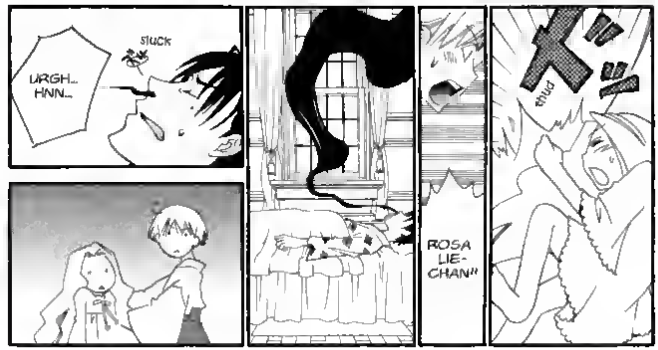
YOU'RE UP FIRST, PUNK!
LOOM
...SHALL SUFFER THE BRUNT OF MY VENGEANCE, FOLLOWED BY EVERYONE ELSE!!
RYOU-KAN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
TO SATISFY MY GRUDGE, YOU AND THIS OLD GUY WHO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT...
STOP IT!

ROSA CAN'T BEAT THE DEVIL ALL ALONE
I NEED SOMEONE TO PERFORM THE RITUAL.
DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF, ROSALIE-CHAN
YOU'RE STILL WORN OUT FROM CHANNELING SHUTEN DOUJI
HUFF...
Haah

PLEASE SAVE RYOUKAN...
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW..!
...THAT / DO IT?!
W-WAIT, ARE YOU SUGGESTING..
HUH?

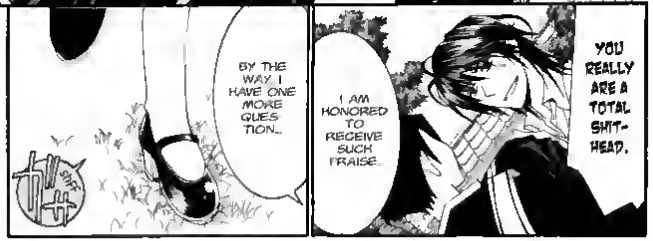
AHHH... EVEN A DOGHOUSE LIKE THIS...
...SEEMS PLEASANT ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT


bzzrrt
YOW!
poupe
AW MAAAN!
THAT DIDN'T WORK EITHER?


stuck
URGH.. HNN...
ROSA LIE-CHAN!!
thud

COULD YOU STILL SAY THAT WITH A DEMON RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?

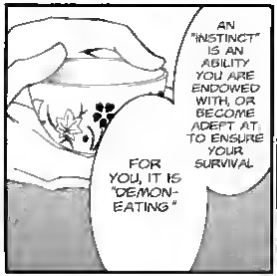
EVEN WHEN THERE IS NO CHANCE OF HIS MASTER VOICE BLOCKING YOUR INSTINCT?
..KAN-TAROU WOULD STOP ME
YOU ARE SAID TO BE THE STRONGEST, THE ONLY CREATURE DEMONS FEAR.
AND YOU KNOW JUST HOW SWEET DEMON FLESH CAN BE.


BY THE WAY I HAVE ONE MORE QUES-TION..
I AM HONORED TO RECEIVE SUCH PRAISE..
YOU REALLY ARE A TOTAL SHIT-HEAD.

ON THAT NOTE, I HAVE A WARNING FOR YOU
WHICH IS?

LEFT BEHIND TO PLAY WATCHDOG OVER LITTLE OLD ME...
MY HOW THE GREAT DEMON EATING TENGU HAS FALLEN
HMPH!

AWW, DON'T LET'S BE SO UN-FRIENDLY, HARUKA-SAN..
GREAT NOW GO BACK TO YOURS


AN "INSTINCT" IS AN ABILITY YOU ARE ENDOWED WITH, OR BECOME ADEPT AT, TO ENSURE YOUR SURVIVAL
FOR YOU, IT IS "DEMON-EATING"

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, AND WHAT'S THIS "INSTINCT" THING YOU PEOPLE KEEP TALKING ABOUT?
YOU MUST NOT FORGET THAT, DEEP DOWN, YOU HAVE AN INSTINCT FOR EATING DEMONS.

THAT WOULD BE DUE TO KAN TAROU-SAN AND OTHERS IN YOUR LIFE.
HOW-EVER..

SO, I MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE A "DEMON-EATING" INSTINCT BEFORE LONG
..BUT WE KNOW THAT I DON'T NEED TO EAT DEMONS TO SURVIVE

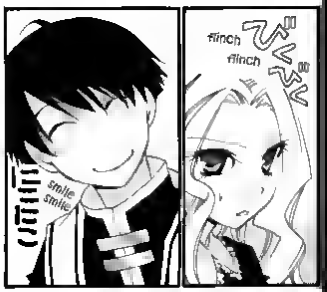
HEH HEH HEH. I SUPPOSE I CAN REVEAL A LITTLE TO COMRADES WITH WHOM I HAVE BROKEN BREAD
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU—
AND YET YOU HAVE SOME SKILL AT SORCERY
HM? WAIT, YOU BELONG TO THE ANGLICAN CHURCH, WHICH DOESN'T EMPLOY EXORCISTS.
I, EDWARDS, BELONG TO THE ENGLISH SECRET SOCIETY...
...."THE SKULL OF WISDOM"!
Pause!
THAT IS NOT THE LEAST BIT TRUE! I AM...
HE CAN'T BE ALL THAT IMPORTANT. NOW, CAN HE?
Maybe an underling? Or a gofer?
Hey! Go get us four salmon lunches!
I AM...!
cackle
HE SURE DID WHICH MEANS...
DIDN'T HE TELL US BOTH NAMES?
I'VE HEARD OF SUCH GROUPS BUT THEY'RE USUALLY SOCIETIES THAT HIDE THEIR EXISTENCE ENTIRELY OR ONES THAT KEEP THEIR MEMBERS NAMES HIDDEN EVEN IF THE SOCIETY'S NAME GOES PUBLIC.
Super secret!!
NOT THAT I'D KNOW BUT SHOULD YOU REALLY BE REVEALING SO MUCH ABOUT SOMETHING "SECRET"?
AND YOU SAY YOU'RE A "GUEST OF JAPAN"? SOUNDS FISHY...

NOOOOO!
OH.
AND HARUKA, YOU PROMISE NOT TO FIGHT WITH EDWARDS!
...
SHE'S STILL TREMBLING, THE POOR THING!
EDWARDS, DON'T COME WITHIN A THREE METER RADIUS OF ROSA-CHAN!!
ANYWAY!
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING EDWARDS.
WELL, IT'S MORE THAT I DON'T KNOW THE PROPER METHOD
shake
shake
shake
...IF HE COULD TEACH ME...
Uneasy
YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T DEFEAT THIS "DEVIL" GUY, KANTAROU?
YEAH, YEAH!
ONE YES IS ENOUGH.
IS THAT CLEAR EDWARDS?
YES, SIR.

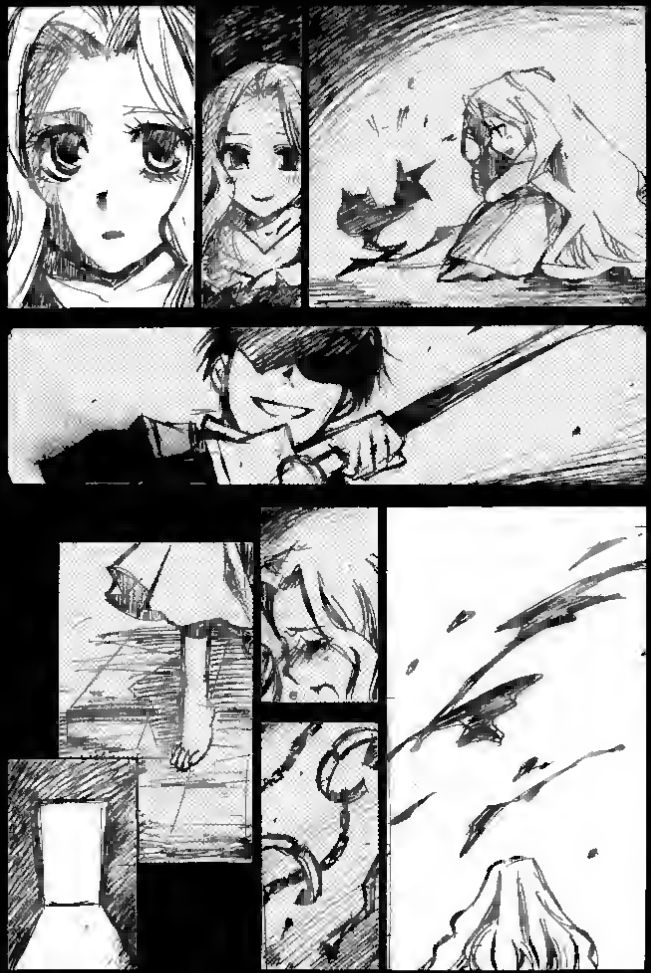
WHAT DOES THIS ORGANIZATION HAVE TO DO WITH ROSALIE-CHAN'S FEAR OF YOU?
WITHIN THE SOCIETY, SHE WAS KNOWN AS THE "AUTOMATIQUE," TO BE CONTROLLED LIKE A MECHANICAL DOLL
WE MADE USE OF HER UNIQUE ABILITY, BEYOND THAT OF ANY OTHER PERSON, TO CHANNEL SPIRITS INTO HER BODY
SHE WAS ORIGINALLY AT AN ORPHANAGE, BUT THE SOCIETY ADOPTED HER ONCE WE REALIZED HER GREAT PSYCHIC POTENTIAL.
Gasp...!
Haah...

WE DIDN'T ASK. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IT UP.
SINCE YOU HAVE FORCED IT OUT OF ME, THERE IS MUCH MORE I COULD REVEAL...
THAT WAS ENTRAPMENT, YOU MEANIE!
What an idiot
OOPS, I SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT!!
I'M ENTRUSTED WITH THE POSITION OF GRAND ADVISO--
MY ROLE IS THAT OF ADVISOR IN SORCERY
BUT YOU COULD SAY THAT I AM ALSO A RESEARCHER IN MY OWN RIGHT
THE SKULL OF WISDOM, THE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH I BELONG...
THE SKULL OF WISDOM
...IS A SECRET SOCIETY STEEPED IN THE OCCULT CENTERED ON RESEARCH INTO ALCHEMY.
...
!
squeeze

Nnen
Hnn
Nnen


smile smile
flinch flinch

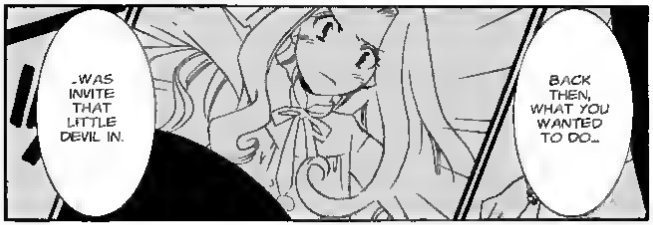
IT FEELS LIKE I AM BEING TREATED AS THE BAD GUY
IN ANY CASE EDWARDS, SINCE ROSALIE CHAN REFUSES TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU...
...PLEASE TEACH ME HOW TO PERFORM THE RITUAL.
YES, BECAUSE YOU ARE A VERY BAD GUY!



スル
sulsh
HERE... COME TO ROSA...
shift
shirt
NO, DON'T!
WAUGH!
crash
IT'S A POLTER-GEIST!!
HARUKA!
...?
smirk

WOW, THAT IS AMAZ-ING...
THIS GIRL POSSESS-ES THE UNIQUE INNATE ABILITY TO CHANNEL SPIRITS WITHOUT FIRST EN-TERING A TRANCE
SHE'S WHAT AN ASS-HOLE.
YES, SHE'S A VERY HANDY TOOL. I'D LIKE YOU TO RETURN HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WELL THEN, YOU BEGIN BY APPLYING THIS HOLY WATER TO HASUMI-SENSEI'S FACE...
THERE IT IS!
slurp
ムズ!
ムズ!
twitch
twitch
twitch
BWAHHOOOO!!

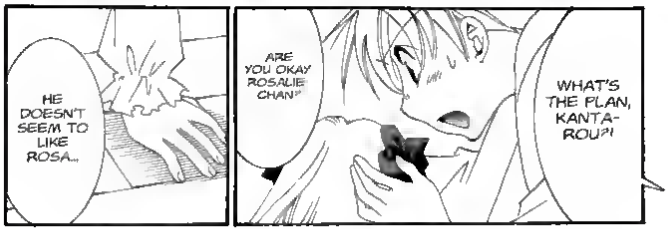
I SEE NOW...
..BUT HE STILL HATES ME.
ROSA JUST WANTED TO MAKE UP WITH HIM...


..WAS INVITE THAT LITTLE DEVIL IN.
BACK THEN, WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO...

UM...
nod
GOT IT!
OKAY, LET'S DO OUR BEST TO MAKE SURE HE UNDER STANDS YOUR FEELINGS, ROSA-CHAN!
!
HEY PEOPLE ALWAYS GOTTA CHALLENGE THEM-SELVES!
^^
nod

WHAT ?!
IT APPEARS THAT THE DAMAGE TAKEN BY OUR DEVIL FRIEND GETS PASSED ALONG TO HASUMI
drip
タラ…

DAMMIT! IT'S HARD TO STOP THAT MON-STER WHEN I'M STUCK HOLDING BACK THIS IDIOT
Gaah!
Nooo!
whizz...
YAUGH!
THAT SOUNDS EVEN BETTER!
STOP, IDIOT! YOU'LL KILL FOUR EYES!
grab
WHAT A NUISANCE I SHALL GO AHEAD AND ANNI-HILATE IT

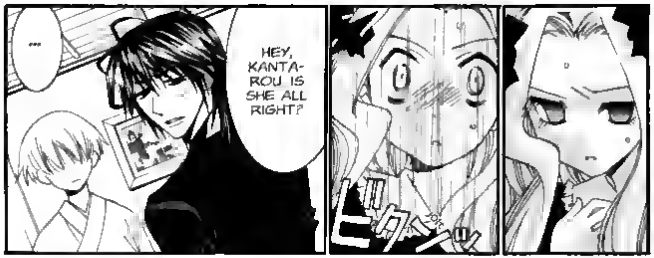

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE ROSA...
ARE YOU OKAY ROSALIE CHAN?
WHAT'S THE PLAN, KANTA-ROU?!

stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
YIKES !!
ARGH! JEEZ, STOP IT! DO SOMETHING, KANTAROU...!
HM?

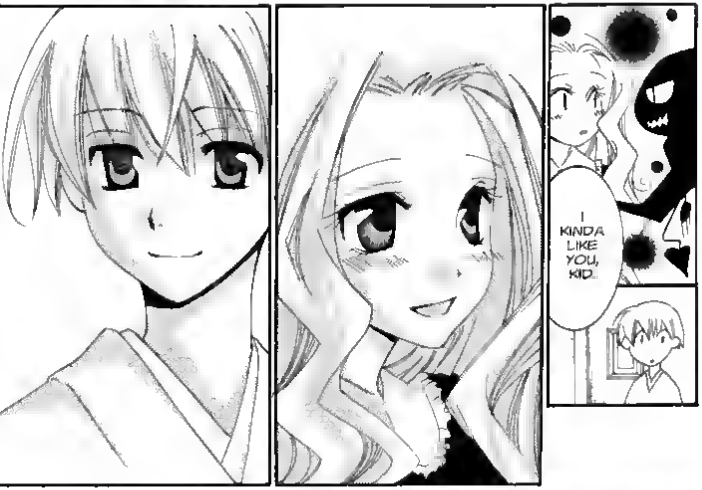
Huff
PLEASE... BE FRIENDS... WITH ROSA... AGAIN...
Huff
Ahh
I'M... SORRY
Gasp
WHAT'S ALL THIS?!
WAIT ...!
!

WELL, SINCE YOU INSIST, I'LL DUCK INSIDE YOU NEXT!
slither
PLEASE...
Huff
LEAVE RYOUKAN AND COME TO ME

...AND MESS YOU UP GOOD!!
bam!
I'LL TAKE CONTROL...


...
HEY, KANTAROU IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
ヒクッ

DOING THAT CAN KILL SOMEONE YOU KNOW ...!
WHAT IS IT?!
Gasp!
WELL, BUT THAT WAS EXHAUSTING
SHALL WE HAVE AFTER NOON TEA?
SHE'LL BE FINE
ROSALIE-CHAN IS WORKING HARD FOR HASUMI'S SAKE


I KINDA LIKE YOU, KID.

MAY I ASK YOU TO DO THAT?
WELL, NOW THAT OUR DEVIL FRIEND IS SATISFIED, I NEED YOU TO CAST THE SPELL TO SEND HIM BACK TO HELL.

Buried
PLEASE (SOB)
...WOULD YOU MIND GETTING ALL THIS OFF OF ME?
BUT FIRST...
OK OK, I'LL DO IT.

I READ THIS GIRL'S MEMORY, AND SAW YOUR EVIL DEEDS...
AUUUGH!

I DESPISE ANYONE WHO BULLIES ME/ROSA !!
Buoosh
HUH, ME ?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SCREWED UP MY SUMMONING!
Huhuh
OH RIGHT, THAT DID HAPPEN A WHILE--
NOOOOOO!!
Slither
HMM, NOT BAD.

SO, IS OUR PRINCESS FEELING BETTER YET?
AAAH... MUST'VE SLEPT WELL, I FEEL QUITE REFRESHED. I SHOULD BE RECOVERED SOON.
ABOUT A HAPPY ENCOUNTER...
...WITH A LITTLE PRINCESS.
...JUST HAVING RYOUKAN...
...WITH HER.
ROSA IS HAPPY...
I'LL TRY REDUCING MY WORKLOAD A BIT, NOW THAT I'M GETTING ON IN YEARS.
THAT'S TRUE. I FEEL THE SAME.
Ha.. ha ha.
...
BY THE WAY...
I HAD MY FIRST GOOD DREAM IN A LONG TIME.
HAVE YOU REALLY BEEN BY MY SIDE ALL THIS TIME?
ROSALIE
nod nod
RYOU-KAN...
...MRM.
HRRMM.
WELL THAT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE MYSTERIES OF LIFE
STILL WHY WOULD ROSALIE HAVE DEVELOPED SUCH AN ATTACHMENT TO HASUMI-SENSEI?
?
I SUPPOSE THAT CHARMING SIGHT WAS REWARD ENOUGH.
YEAH, THAT WAS MY PLAN AT FIRST. BUT...
KNOWING YOU, KANTAROU SAN, I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU'RE LEAVING INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR HASUMI SENSEI TO SHOWER YOU WITH REWARDS.
clasp

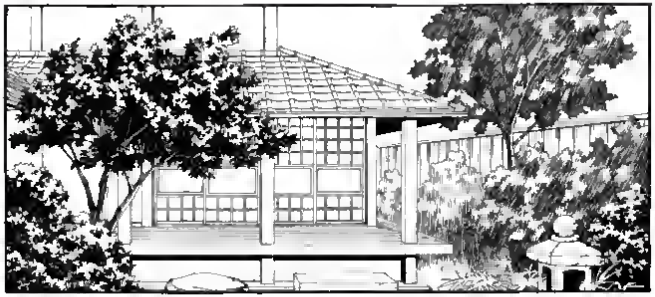
clasp

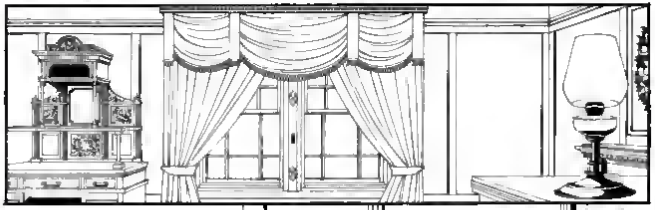
Did the Minamoto Clan... did Brother... consider me nothing more than a vessel?
Brother... what am I to my brother?

Dragonfly Bead Anecdotes

-Ayame-

Reference: Illustration from "Kyosai Hyaki Gadan" by Kawanabe Kyosai





A PLACE FOR LADIES TO SOCIALIZE, WITH NO BOYS ALLOWED

GINGA GUREN STAFF MENU

Our next first-press limited-edition supplemental mini Drama CD is "I'm Gonna Be Number One!" It takes place at Ginga Guren, the coffee house run by Raikou Minamoto that's renowned for its all-male staff, catering exclusively to women, as featured in the volume 9 special bonus manga! We're introducing all the employees with their unique pro names. Those of you who prefer the regular edition should know that this limited-edition printing is also a lot of fun, so be sure to check it out!

Our No. 1, the Capital's most eligible bachelor: Yuri (Suzuhinobu Watanabe)

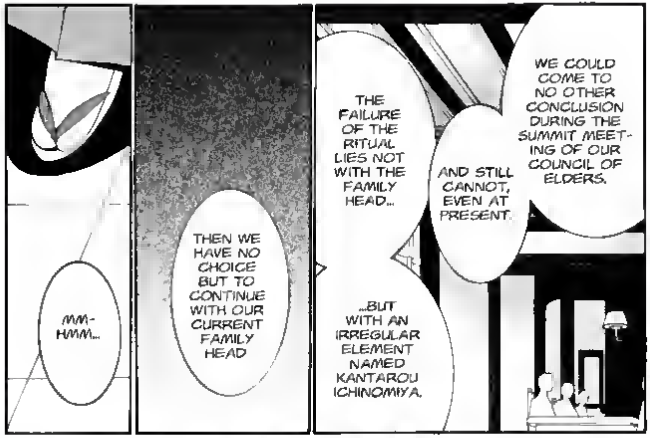
Manager: Sugi (Kimishige Sakata)

Owner: Shikimi Ryuuseiin (Raikou Minamoto)

Ginga Guren's New Face: Haruka (Haruka)

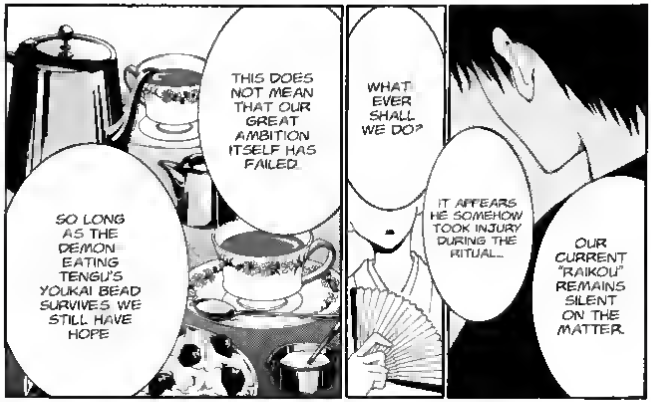
Our No. 3, elegant older gentleman. Moku (Urabe)

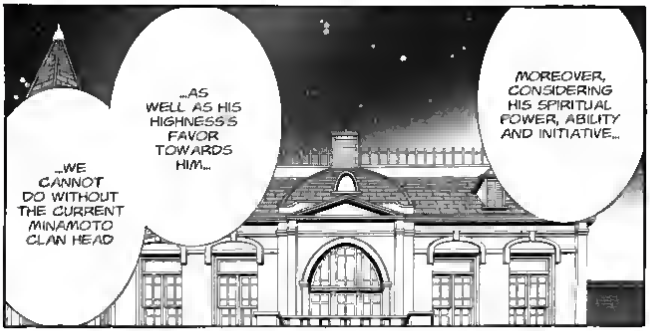
Our No. 2, belle in drag: Chidori (Usui)


MM-HMM...
THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE WITH OUR CURRENT FAMILY HEAD
THE FAILURE OF THE RITUAL LIES NOT WITH THE FAMILY HEAD...
...BUT WITH AN IRREGULAR ELEMENT NAMED KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA.
AND STILL CANNOT, EVEN AT PRESENT.
WE COULD COME TO NO OTHER CONCLUSION DURING THE SUMMIT MEETING OF OUR COUNCIL OF ELDERS.

AYAME WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A VESSEL TO HARBOR FUJI'S SOUL WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS OF THE MINAMOTO CLAN AS THAT RITUAL IS NOW LOST TO US...
...IS NO LONGER OF ANY USE TO US.
STILL... REMEMBER, THAT VESSEL...

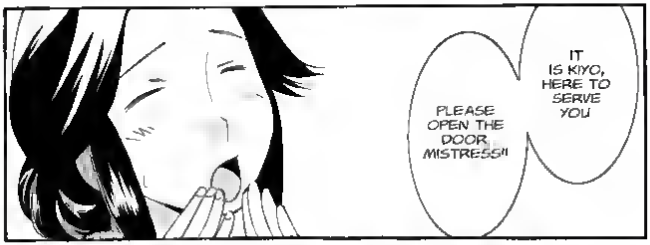
I SAID FROM THE BEGINNING THAT YOUNGSTER WOULD--
HE HAS BOTCHED THE RITUAL. THE FOOTHOLD OF OUR MINAMOTO CLAN'S GREAT AMBITION FOR GENERATIONS THE "DEIFICATION OF JAPAN"


SO LONG AS THE DEMON EATING TENGU'S YOUKAI BEAD SURVIVES WE STILL HAVE HOPE
THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT OUR GREAT AMBITION ITSELF HAS FAILED.
WHAT EVER SHALL WE DO?
IT APPEARS HE SOMEHOW TOOK INJURY DURING THE RITUAL...
OUR CURRENT "RAIKOU" REMAINS SILENT ON THE MATTER.

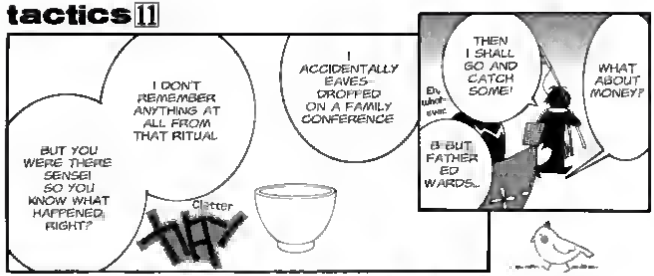

...WE CANNOT DO WITHOUT THE CURRENT MINAMOTO CLAN HEAD
...AS WELL AS HIS HIGHNESS'S FAVOR TOWARDS HIM...
MOREOVER, CONSIDERING HIS SPIRITUAL POWER, ABILITY AND INITIATIVE...

ENOUGH OF BROODING ALL ALONE!
I'M GOING OUT TO GET SOME ADVICE!!
PLEASE WAIT HERE FOR ME, KIYO, AND DON'T WORRY!
touched it
But don't run in the hallway!
YES, THAT'S THE MISTRESS AYAME I KNOW...
SEE YOU SOON...
dash
dash

MISTRESS AYAME!
MISTRESS AYAME...

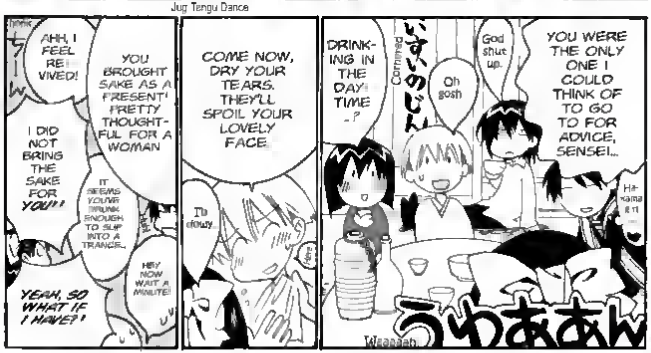

PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR, MISTRESS!!
IT IS KIYO, HERE TO SERVE YOU

A-YA--
bam!
shriek
MISTRESS AYAME!
MISTRESS AYAME, PLEASE!
MIS-TRESS
I THOUGHT YOU HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM YOUR PARENTS' HOME.
WHY IN THE WORLD HAVE YOU SHUT YOURSELF UP IN YOUR ROOM?


I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL FROM THAT RITUAL
BUT YOU WERE THERE SENSEI! SO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, RIGHT?
I ACCIDENTALLY EAVES-DROPPED ON A FAMILY CONFERENCE
Clatter
THEN I SHALL GO AND CATCH SOME!
Eh, what-ever.
BUT, FATHER ED WARDS..
WHAT ABOUT MONEY?

IT'S SILLY OF ME TO SEEK ADVICE FROM SOME ONE WHO'S TECHNICALLY BROTHER'S ENEMY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
AYAME-CHAN...
TO THE MINAMOTO CLAN, I WAS MERELY A VESSEL.
SO NOW THAT THE RITUAL HAS FAILED THEY NO LONGER NEED ME, AND WHEN I WONDER IF BROTHER FEELS THAT WAY TOO...
..IT HURTS SO MUCH, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
..DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP LIVING?
IF MY ONE PURPOSE IN LIFE IS GONE, THEN...

えぐ Hic!
drip
お
Ohh...
I JUS' DON' KNOOOW ANYMOOOORE!
天狗舞
Hic!
ひっく drip
AND SEE? I-I-I.. DUNNO WHAT TO DOOOO..
Ohhh...
drip
Jug: Tengu Dance


AHH, I FEEL REVIVED!
I DID NOT BRING THE SAKE FOR YOU!!
YOU BROUGHT SAKE AS A PRESENT? PRETTY THOUGHTFUL FOR A WOMAN
IT SEEMS YOU'VE DRUNK ENOUGH TO SLIP INTO A TRANCE..
HEY, NOW WAIT A MINUTE!
YEAH, SO WHAT IF I HAVE?!
COME NOW, DRY YOUR TEARS. THEY'LL SPOIL YOUR LOVELY FACE.
I'll obey.
DRINKING IN THE DAYTIME..?
Coming
God shut up.
Oh gosh
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE I COULD THINK OF TO GO TO FOR ADVICE, SENSEI...
うわあん
Waaaah

F-FISH, YOU SAY?!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THEN I SHALL GO AND BUY SOME!
HEY, LET'S FISH UP SOME DRINKING SNACKS!
Just spice packets.
Feh.
...
Hmph!
フン

sniff
WHEN I FINALLY OPENED THE DOOR TO THAT ROOM...
...I SAW A SHADOWY MAN CHANTING SUTRAS
AND EVERY DAY I HEARD SUTRAS AND A BELL COMING FROM THE ALTAR ROOM.
THERE'RE ODD NOISES, AND HOUSE-HOLD ITEMS MOVING BY THEM-SELVES.
Ding Dong

Just let me see some nice, shiny, white rice!
KAN-CHAN, we finally have some work... You know what'll happen to you if you don't take this job right? Ahhh, I could be having miso soup tomorrow morning!
B-BUT...
I DON'T WANT TO G-
SAVE ME, AYAME-CHAN!
I HATE YOU ALL!
ゆくゆく
MAY I COME WITH YOU, SENSEI?!
I curse yoooo oou!
I'D HEARD THE RUMORS THAT YOU'RE LOW ON CASH, SO I CAME HERE
PLEASE SENSEI, YOU GOTTA HELP ME!
No way no way no way! We don't do ghosts here! Just hurry up and leave!!
AND HE TURNED AND LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE!!
GAAAH!!!

You're not HELPING!
Oh crap! Hold on a sec.
Uh hel er
Eep!
USING ME...?
sniff
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL! AYAME-CHAN, THEY WERE JUST USING YOU--
...
knock
knock
knock
A... GHOST ?!
SENSEI! ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI!!
HUH...?
W-WE HAVE A GHOST!
PLEASE EXORCISE IT!!

tactics 11
NO, EVERY BIT OF IT IS ROTTING, Y'SEE, IT NEEDS RE BUILDING
WOW, WHAT A DIGNIFIED OLD HOME IT'S WONDERFUL
THIS'S THE HOUSE, IF Y'PLEASE.
REALLY? WHAT A WASTE
point
point
whump
Eh heh heh...
G GHOSTS ARE OUTSIDE MY AREA OF EXPERTISE, SO I'D RATHER NOT...
NOW, PLEASE DO START INVESTIGATING
THEY SAY YOU SHOULDN'T THROW AWAY OLD THINGS SO READILY
HAVE TO IF THEY'RE IN THE WAY
WELL? WHAT'LL IT BE?!
HARUKA, YOUR LIGHTNING IS..!
WOULD YOU RATHER DEAL WITH MY HUNGER AND IRRITATION THEN?
YOU SEE, I'VE NEVER SEEN A GHOST BEFORE!
WHY'S THIS WOMAN COMING WITH US, KANTAROU?
"REALLY EXCITED" HUH.
AS A MEMBER OF THE MAKA MYSTERIOUS RESEARCH SOCIETY I'M REALLY EXCITED ABOUT IT!
Hmph!
WHAT DID YOU SAY? GRRR!
Hey hey!
FEH. YOU MINAMOTOS ARE SO ANNOYING...
...
"THIS WOMAN"! MY NAME IS AYAME MINAMOTO!
I'LL CRUSH YOUR NECK IF I HAVE TO
ANSWER THE QUESTION.
...PRETTY DANG HORRIBLE...
AWKWARD
TRUE, THEIR FIRST MEETING WAS....
?

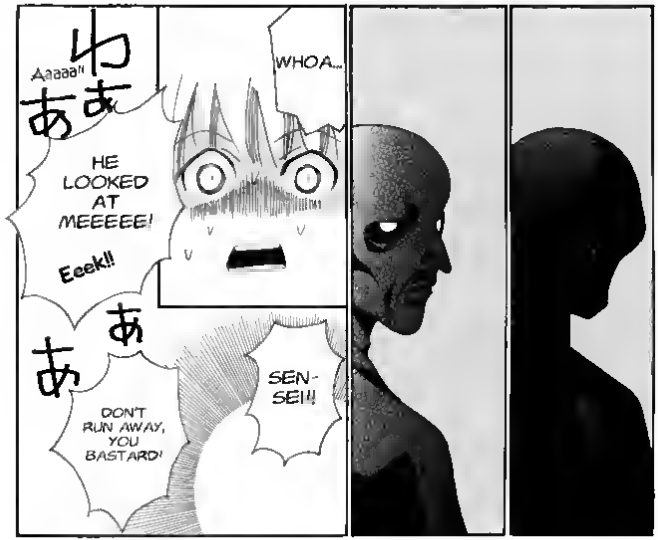
AAUGH!
whang
IT'S A POLTER-GEIST!!
AH, SUCH NICE YOUTHFUL SPIRIT
thunk
bam
bam
YIPE!
whizz
conk
bump
ACK!
EEK!
MAYBE I SHOULD USE THAT AS A SHIELD...
OH...

crunch
THE PURE-HEARTED LAPIS YOUKAI BUSTERS...
ta-dah!
...ARE ON THE CASE!!

AT THIS POINT, I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR SOME WHITE RICE
YOU'RE UNUSUALLY EAGER, HARUKA.
LET'S GO!
Evil spirits and heretics all have Buddha nature, the four demons and the three poisons lie on the path to enlightenment...
therefore Hell and the Pure Land are one, united equally and indiscriminately

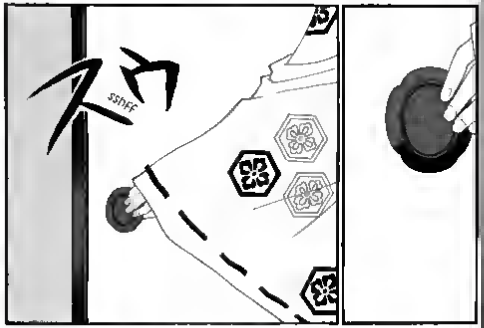
crash
thuump
OW!
!

IT FEELS CREEPY THAT YOU'RE THANKING ME USING FUJI'S FACE.
...
UH, IT'S NOTHING.
HUH?
I'M GOING TO FORCE MY WAY IN, SO COVER ME
No way I can't!
Don't "but" me!
but
STILL, OUR OPPONENT IS KEEPING US FROM GETTING INTO THE ALTAR ROOM.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YOU BETTER FULL YOUR OWN WEIGHT.
FOOLISH WOMAN
OH...


Aaaaa!!
あ
あ
HE LOOKED AT MEEEEE!
Eeek!!
WHOA...
あ
あ
DON'T RUN AWAY, YOU BASTARD!
SEN-SEI!!

FINALLY MADE IT THROUGH
THE DOOR ON THE LEFT IS THE ONE WE'RE AFTER. THE AURAS WAFTING FROM THERE.
チーン
ring
チーン
ring

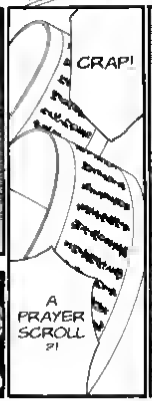
AND I CAN HEAR SUTRAS AND A BELL...
ding
dong
チーン
ring

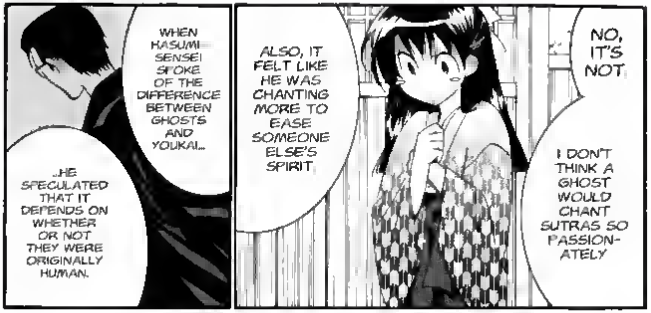

スウ
SSHH

...he saw the emptiness of the five aspects of human existence, and thus overcame all suffering and affliction
When Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Compassion, meditated upon the Perfection of Wisdom...

* Sanskrit: they attain enlightenment.
The Perfection of Wisdom is the greatest mantra, the clearest mantra,
the highest mantra, the unparalleled mantra that removes all suffering.
Th s truth cannot be troubled. Speak the mantra thusly:
gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha
The Perfection of Wisdom Heart Sutra

COME ON, SENSEI, JUST TAKE A LOOK! WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF GHOSTS?!
FOR A GOOD REASON !!
GHOSTS ARE GRISLY AND NOT THE LEAST BIT CUTE! THEY'RE SCARY!
THAT'S A LAME REASON!
shumpf

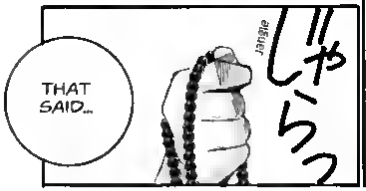



WHEN HASUMI SENSEI SPOKE OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GHOSTS AND YOUKAI...
...HE SPECULATED THAT IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE ORIGINALLY HUMAN.
ALSO, IT FELT LIKE HE WAS CHANTING MORE TO EASE SOMEONE ELSE'S SPIRIT.
NO, IT'S NOT.
I DON'T THINK A GHOST WOULD CHANT SUTRAS SO PASSIONATELY

I HAVE TO AGREE
AYAME CHAN...
I COULDN'T SENSE A HUMAN'S CORPOREAL AURA OR LINGERING ATTACHMENTS IN THE SPIRIT WE ENCOUNTERED

WELL ACTUALLY, I WAS TOO SCARED TO EVEN TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
My bad
YOU'RE PATHETIC...
WAIT, HOW COME YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THAT?

WHEN I APPROACHED THE SPIRIT, I SENSED YOUKAI ENERGY
IT WAS DEFINITELY A YOUKAI.


THAT SAID...
Jangle
しゃらっ

wham
wham
LOOK OUT!
TUNA
SSSHUNK
HE GOT ME...!
DAMN IT!

IT'S NOT A GHOST?

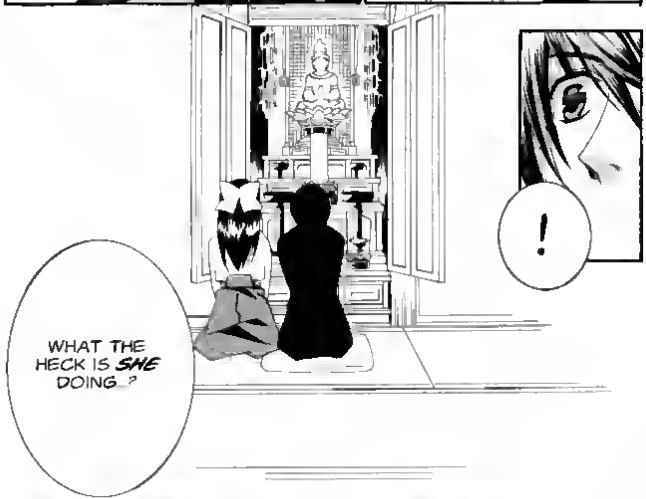
AND YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL! YOU'RE USELESS...!
EH-HEH!

SINCE IT'S A YOUKAI, I'LL BE JUST FINE!
IT'LL GO BETTER NEXT TIME!
HE CHEERS UP QUICK...
INDEED! ♡
OH..!
MAYBE BECAUSE...
SO WHY COULD I...?
DON'T YOU LACK SPIRITUAL POWER?
COME TO THINK OF IT, AYAME CHAN, HOW COME YOU COULD SEE THAT GUY?
YES. THEY SAID I HAVE LESS SPIRITUAL POWER THAN A NORMAL PERSON.
...DURING THE RITUAL..
...YOU SWALLOWED ONE OF MY TEETH?

EEEEEK!
Gosh!
flap
Mr. Youkai!!
MAYBE BE... BECAUSE I'M A TENGU?
HOW RUDE!
BLARGH!
B-BUT WHY WOULD YOUR TOOTH GIVE ME SPIRITUAL POWER?
I want one too...
Ten-
-boosh!

NOW I SEE
OKAY, LET'S GET RIGHT BACK TO THE SHADOW MAN'S ROOM!!
Or if applied. Or if applied. Or if applied.
SORRY TO PRY, BUT WHO ELSE IS IN YOUR HOUSE-HOLD?
JUST ME, MY WIFE, AND MY DAUGHTER... ALSO THE OLD MAN, BUT HE DIED LAST YEAR.
I'LL BE WAITING AT THE NEIGH-BOR'S, CALL ME WHEN YER DONE.
AH, THERE YOU ARE
OH! WAIT, SIR!

GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE I'LL CAST SOME THUNDER TO STARTLE HI—
SHEESH...
I can't talk to him!!
AT LEAST GET HIM TO STOP CHANTING FOR A WHILE
DO SOMETHING, HARU KAAA!
conk
OW!


!
WHAT THE HECK IS SHE DOING—?

...
ARE YOU OFFERING UP SUTRAS FOR THE OLD MAN WHO PASSED AWAY?
SORRY IF I'M BOTHERING YOU...
UH, PARDON ME?

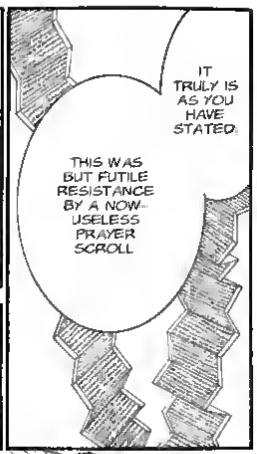
AAUGH!!
bwoosh

HE STILL WON'T LISTEN TO ME!

I SWEAR
SHE HAS THE SAME FACE...
..BUT THAT'S ALL THEY SHARE
ssshh

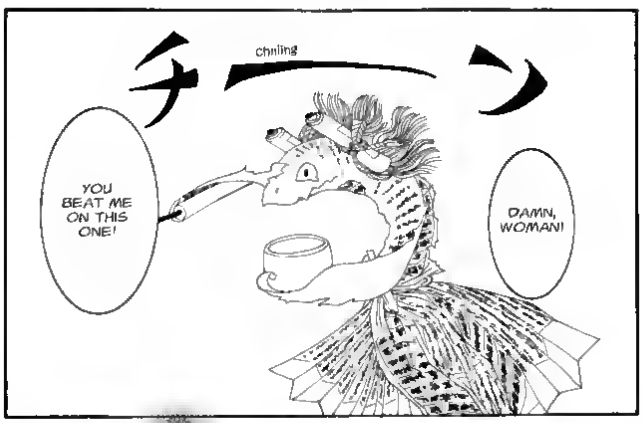
AYAME-CHAN...
I'D LIKE TO HELP HIM REST PEACEFULLY TOO.
MAY I PRAY WITH YOU?
...
THANK YOU!
!
Nod

I BEG YOU, VIRTUOUS PRIESTS, PLEASE EXORCISE ME NOW
STILL, I HAVE FINISHED OFFERING SUTRAS FOR THOSE ANCESTORS WHO TREASURED ME


IT TRULY IS AS YOU HAVE STATED
THIS WAS BUT FUTILE RESISTANCE BY A NOW-USELESS PRAYER SCROLL

"TSUKU MOGAMI"...

ITEMS THAT ARE USED FOR A VERY LONG TIME MAY GAIN SPIRITUAL POWER. THEN THEY ARE CALLED "TSUKU-MOGAMI."
THROUGH THE AGES THE JAPANESE HAVE BELIEVED THAT EVERY PART OF CREATION, NO MATTER WHAT FORM, HOUSES A SPIRIT
NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL THE "THING" MAY HAVE BEEN, THIS PROVES THAT IT WAS WELL-LOVED.


チーン
chiiing
YOU BEAT ME ON THIS ONE!
DAMN, WOMAN!

I'D SAY THAT THIS PRAYER SCROLL BELONGED TO THE OLD MAN WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY
AND WHEN THE FAMILY BEGAN PREPARING TO REBUILD THIS HOUSE, THE SCROLL GOT SLATED FOR DISPOSAL. THAT'S WHY IT STARTED THIS RUCKUS.
Wow, it's a REAL live youkai!!
So Cute!
THIS MUST BE... THE TSUKU-MOGAMI, OR ARTIFACT-SPIRIT OF A PRAYER SCROLL.
A KYOU-RINRIN!

I... I STILL LOVE HIM TOO MUCH FOR THAT.

I JUST CAN'T SPEAK ILL OF HIM.

A BROTHER LIKE HIM IS BEST FORGOTTEN.

NO...

AYAME-CHAN

...DON'T TALK LIKE THAT. YOU'RE NOT A "THING."

Book: Buddhist Profound Perfection of Wisdom Heart Sutra

I SEE..

BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE, I STILL THINK OF YOU AS A PRECIOUS FRIEND.

...ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

I...

I COULD USE THIS PRAYER SCROLL.

I HOPE THAT SOMEDAY, MY BROTHER...

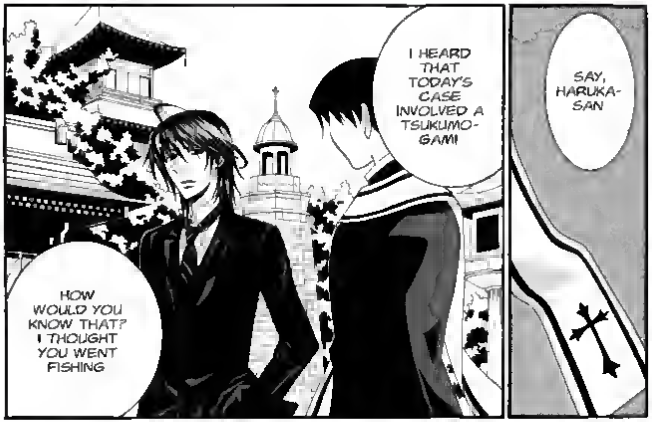
...MAY SEE ME AS A "TSUKUMO-GAMI."...

SURE!

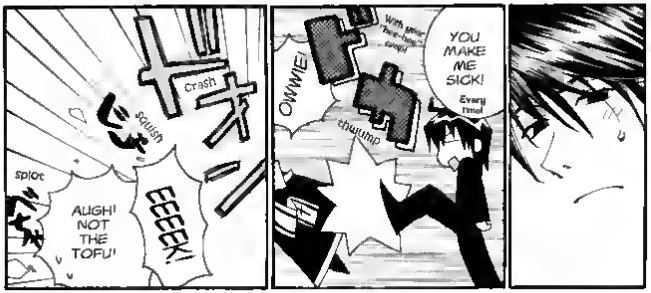
THAT'D BE LOVELY IF YOU DID.

I THANK YOU...

...VERY KINDLY


I HEARD THAT TODAY'S CASE INVOLVED A TSUKUMO-GAMI
SAY, HARUKA-SAN
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT? I THOUGHT YOU WENT FISHING

Hee hee
..COULD BECOME A "TSUKUMO-GAMI"?
PERHAPS, SOMEDAY, YOU TOO...


splot
squish
crash
AUGH! NOT THE TOFU!
EEEEK!
OWWIE!
With spine-face-ness
thwump
YOU MAKE ME SICK!
Every time!

DORKS.
Me oh my, it's time to buy!!
I'm not with them.
YAAY, YAAY! I GOT MY PAY, MY WALLET'S NICE AND FULL!
To the bran!
NEXT, TO FLOAT IN THE MISO SOUP, HAPPY TOFU AND WAKAME!
I do NOT know these people, at all!
Float just like a cute mirage...

THAT'S TOO BAD... WAIT, JUST HOW FAR DID YOU GO TO FISH...?
I DIDN'T CATCH A SINGLE FISH...
WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO CATCH...?
dejected
SENSE!!

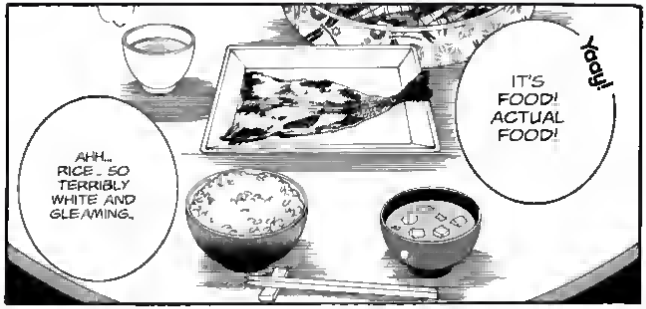
SAY, WHY IS FATHER EDWARDS AT YOUR HOUSE ICHINOMIYA SENSEI!?
THE MINAMOTO RESIDENCE HAS GROWN TIRESOME SO I AM FREE-LOADING OFF KANTAROU SAN.
WHAT, REALLY?! THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT!
YOU WISH TO TAKE ME BACK!?
NO WAY!

CHO!
FATHER EDWARDS

To-fuu to-fuu
TIME TO BUY, TIME TO BUY!!
LOOK! IT'S THE TOFU MAN!
DON'T FORGET THE NATTO!!
Happy happy to-fu!

UH, WAS THAT MEANT TO BE A LAUGH..?
HA HA.
IT'S PRETTY FUNNY SEEING YOU ACT COMPLETELY UNLIKE HER.
ALL THIS TIME I SAW YOU AND FUJI AS TWO PEAS IN A POD.
SNORT
IT'S ALL GERMY! AND STICKY! AND ROTTEN!
NOT NATTO ...
HOW CAN ANY OF YOU STAND NATTO?!
goop
shudder
sparkle

LOOK, NATTO!
EEEE-EEK!
WOULD YOU RATHER HE WERE ANGRY?!
YOU'RE AMAZING AYAME CHAN!!
HARUKA CHAN'S LAUGHING!
haha ha ha ha ha ha
hoaaaaa-ha ha ha ha
あはは
はは
はは


AHH.. RICE.. SO TERRIBLY WHITE AND GLEAMING..
IT'S FOOD! ACTUAL FOOD!
Yaay!

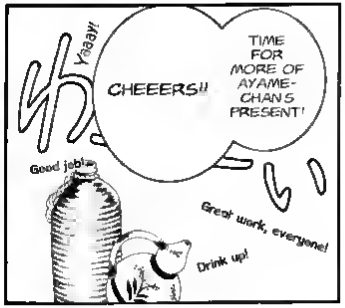
THAT'S RIGHT! PLEASE, HELP YOURSELF!
NOT YOU EDWARDS
JOIN US, AYAME-CHAN YOU DID HELP OUT WITH THE JOB.

STILL, WHAT A SURPRISE.
Here.
Got it

I AM pretty hungry.
OH! WELL, THEN, DON'T MIND IF I DO

Got it
Here.
I NEVER REALIZED MISTER HARUKA WAS A TENGU.

WHAAT?
Thanks.
HUH?


Yaaay!
CHEEERS!!
TIME FOR MORE OF AYAME-CHAN'S PRESENT!
Good job!
Great work, everyone!
Drink up!

Eeeeeeeek!

FROM SAKURA KINOSHITA

Hello, Sakura Kinoshita here!

Thank you very much for buying Tactics volume 11.

You're such a sweetie... I love you!

Right now I'm really into toy prize inserts and cosmetics. They're lots of fun

It's going to start getting serious in the next volume. What's going to happen?!

I'm all excited!

Please look forward to it, 'kay? ♥

木下さくら

Sakura Kinoshita

2009

3

When the young tengu said, "Mother," the vine that had been curled around his little finger momentarily entwined his whole body, and then released, as if giving a gentle embrace.

Dragonfly Bead Anecdotes – Moon Festival

天狗舞

OOH I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT AGAIN AFTER SO LONG!
LORD DEMON EATER DANCING BENEATH THE FULL MOON...
...ALSO DESIRES NOTHING MORE THAN TO SEE HIM AGAIN
OUR LORD DEMON EATER'S MOTHER THE GREAT SACRED TREE...
WAIT, SO HARUKA CAME FROM A TREE?!
HARUKA'S MOTHER ?!
LORD DEMON EATER'S PRESENCE IS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED
THAT'S WHY I NEED SOME TIME OFF
WELL, YEAH.
WE'LL GO AS A TRIO!

FROM KAZUKO HIGASHIYAMA

YAY, VOLUME 11!

Hello again, it's been a while Kazuko Higashiyama here.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for picking up Tactics Volume 11!

That I've managed to draw such a long story is all thanks to our readers, staff and everyone at Mag Garden! Please continue your kind support. ♥

For this volume we went with the concept: "Spotlight on the Side Characters!" It was great getting to use some of the ideas that I'd had for the side characters. There are plenty more heart-warming episode ideas where those came from, so I'd love to find a chance to draw them too!

I really enjoyed the Tactics Academy shorts, even if they were just exam stories this time (laugh) I did the storyboards for "Avoid the Winter Makeup Exam!" This was my first time storyboarding this kind of short for Tactics. It was a lot of fun to do, even if the experience showed me how much, much more I still have to learn.

We will be building up to the climax in volume 12, so I'm whipping myself into shape to put even more work into it. I hope that all of you will want to continue reading to see where the story goes!

KAZUKO HIGASHIYAMA

SO, ANYWAY...
...WHEN IS THIS FESTIVAL OF YOURS?

YOU'RE NOT INVITED
TAKE ME TAKE ME TAKE ME TAKE ME! I WANNA SEE THEIR HEART-WARMING REUNION AND HARUKA'S DANCE!!
AND HE'S JUST TOO EAGER BEAVER ABOUT IT! IT'S CREEPY!
INDEED, HUMANS AND UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER.

OH! THEN HARUKA HASN'T SEEN HIS MOTHER TREE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS?!
BUT HE PRACTICALLY JUST WOKE UP FROM BEING SEALED FOR A TH—
thrill

Crap! I've got a bad feeling...
THEN I'LL JUST SAY...

AWW

YOU SEEM TO HAVE MELLOWED OUT, LORD DEMON EATER
WELL, FOR AN OUTSIDER, AT LEAST HE'S YOKAI-ISH ENOUGH THAT HE PROBABLY WON'T GET CAUGHT...
DEMON EATER'S A WIMPUS!
SHADDUP! I CAN'T HELP IT OKAY?!

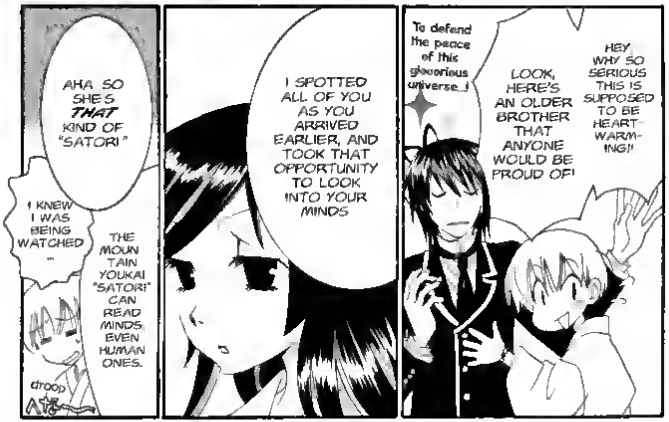
TAKE ME WITH YOU TO THE FESTIVAL, HARUKA! ♡
Duaaaaah!

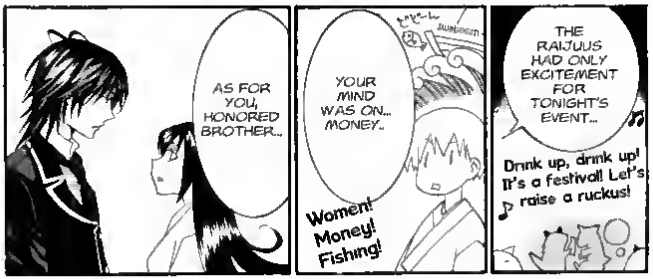
WOW.. SO THIS IS YOUR BIRTHPLACE, HARUKA!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
?
HARUKA SURE SEEMS HAPPY!

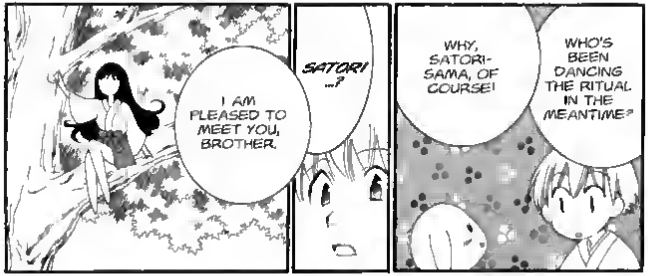
AS WELL YOU SHOULD OUR MOTHER CAN SEE THROUGH ALL THOUGHTS, DESIRES, EVERYTHING!!
AHH!
ON THIS MOUNTAIN LIVES A SACRED TREE THAT GAVE BIRTH TO A DEMON EATING TENGU.
YOU CAN REALLY SENSE THE POWER.
swish
HUH?
SHE'LL GRANT JUST ONE WISH OUT OF ANYTHING WE ASK FOR!
AT THIS FESTIVAL, HELD ONCE EVERY HUNDRED YEARS, WE PETITION HER FOR ABUNDANT HARVEST AND PEACE IN THE FOREST.
C'mon guys! I was just kidding!
Gaah!
OOH.. MAYBE I COULD ASK THE SACRED TREE TO "MAKE ME WEALTHY"...

flock
flock
!
rustle rustle
WE...WE'VE HEARD LOTS OF STORIES ABOUT YOU, PASSED DOWN FROM OUR GRANDPAS GRANDPAS, SO WE WANTED TO...
LORD DEMON EATER, WE ALL WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS AS A TRIBUTE TO YOU.
UH... L-LORD...
YOU GUYS ARE...
BEEN QUITE THE LONG WHILE, EH?
LORD DEMON EATER!
Yeah! Yeah!
Bravo!
THUS ENDS HIS THOUSAND-YEAR HIATUS!
AHEM...TONIGHT, AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, THE HONORABLE SON OF THIS MOUNTAIN'S SACRED TREE, THE LORD DEMON-EATING TENGU, WILL HONOR US WITH HIS MAGNIFICENT RITUAL DANCE, WITH THE MOONLIT NIGHT AS A BACKDROP!
Eh heh heh

WOW!
I'M HOME...
MOTHER...
MAGNIFICENT...!


AHA SO SHE'S THAT KIND OF "SATORI"
I KNEW I WAS BEING WATCHED...
THE MOUNTAIN YOUKAI "SATORI" CAN READ MINDS, EVEN HUMAN ONES.
droop
I SPOTTED ALL OF YOU AS YOU ARRIVED EARLIER, AND TOOK THAT OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK INTO YOUR MINDS
To defend the peace of this glocorious universe...!
LOOK, HERE'S AN OLDER BROTHER THAT ANYONE WOULD BE PROUD OF!
HEY, WHY SO SERIOUS THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE HEART-WARMING!!


AS FOR YOU, HONORED BROTHER...
YOUR MIND WAS ON... MONEY..
Women! Money! Fishing!
THE RAIJUUS HAD ONLY EXCITEMENT FOR TONIGHT'S EVENT...
Drink up, drink up! It's a festival! Let's raise a ruckus!


I AM PLEASED TO MEET YOU, BROTHER.
SATORI ...?
WHY, SATORI-SAMA, OF COURSE!
WHO'S BEEN DANCING THE RITUAL IN THE MEANTIME?

MY SISTER ...?
I WAS BORN FROM THE SACRED TREE OF THIS FOREST
I AM SATORI.

NOW I ASK THAT YOU LEAVE RIGHT AWAY
STUNNED
WE HAVEN'T MET HER BEFORE EITHER. I COULD JUST ABOUT CRY FOR JOY!
BLESS MY SOUL, IT IS LORD DEMON EATING TENGU'S HONORABLE SISTER...! EXALTED DAUGHTER OF THE SACRED TREE!
NO WAY HARUKA HAS A LITTLE SISTER?! HI, I'M HARUKA'S MASTER, KANTAROU LET'S BE FRIENDS! ♡
stunstunned

I HAVE NOT A SINGLE MEMORY LIKE THAT. DOES THIS MEAN THAT MOTHER CARES MORE FOR YOU, BROTHER...?
MOTHER SHOWING KINDNESS
WITHIN YOUR MEMORIES, I SAW...
TO ME, MOTHER IS MERELY A TREE...
ALTHOUGH I MAY HAVE THIS POWER, MOTHER WILL NOT SPEAK TO ME.
...BUT NO MORE. NOT AFTER SEEING THAT IMAGE WITHIN YOUR MIND.
IN SECRET, I HAD LONG BEEN YEARNING TO MEET YOU...
WELL, WITH A BRANCH... OR MAYBE A VINE? SOMETHING LIKE THAT, ANYWAY...
"EMBRACED"? BY A TREE?
I WAS FEELING SENTIMENTAL AFTER BEING AWAY ALL THIS TIME
IT MUST HAVE BEEN... THE TIME MOTHER EMBRACED ME WHEN I WAS A CHILD
WHAT SORT OF MEMORY WAS THAT, HARUKA?
134
MOTHER LOWERED A BRANCH DOWN TO ME, AND I GRABBED HOLD OF IT TO GET BACK UP.
I HAD FALLEN DOWN A CLIFF AND COULDN'T CLIMB OUT.
...
HMM, I GUESS THAT COUNTS AS AN EMBRACE...
ONCE I WAS SAFE AT THE TOP IT WRAPPED ITSELF AROUND MY BODY
I WILL NOT OPEN MY ARMS TO THOSE TO WHOM I CANNOT BE FULLY GRACIOUS.
AT ANY RATE, I CANNOT ACCEPT YOU AS A BROTHER, AND SO I ASK THAT YOU LEAVE
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL ME TO LEAVE.
WHAT THE HELL? I'VE FINALLY RETURNED AFTER BEING SEALED AWAY FOR ONE THOUSAND YEARS.
135

I'M THE MASTER WHO GAVE HIM THE NAME HARUKA.
SAY, UH...
MY NAME IS KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA
PLEASED TO MEET YOU MOTHER OF THE DEMON-EATING TENGU
shff

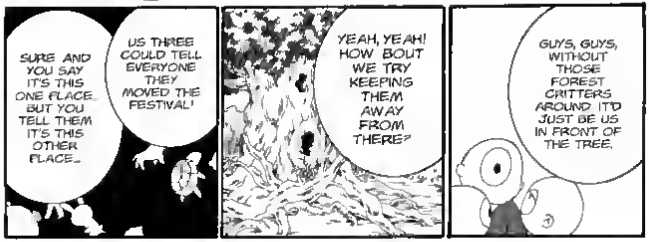
I HEARD YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING WITHIN MY MIND.
IF SO, THEN I'M TERRIBLY, TERRIBLY SORRY.

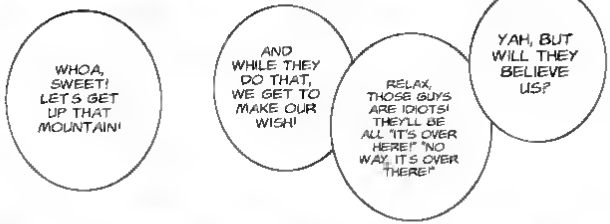
shaa
VERY SORRY...

HMPH!
clash
I DON'T WANT A NARROW-MINDED JERK FOR MY LITTLE SISTER.
SAME HERE
I CANNOT ACCEPT YOU AS MY BROTHER
YOU HAVE WOUNDED ME.

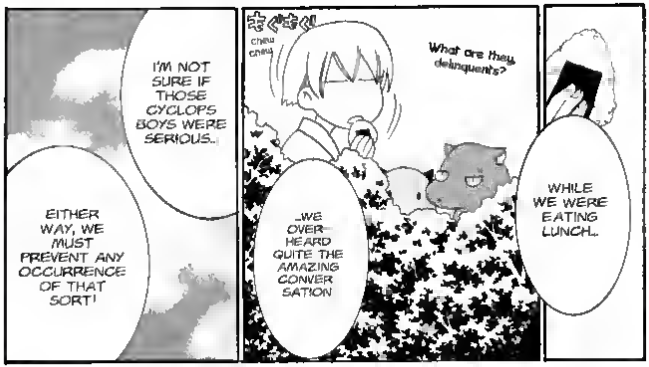
LORD DEMON EATER, WE HAVE A FESTIVAL TO PREPARE..
YES INDEEDY!

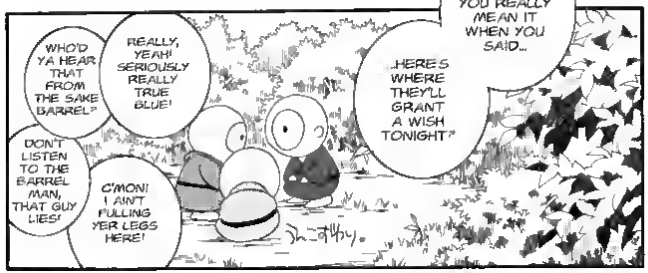
...
Hi ho! Hi ho!
WHAT TO DO FOR THE STAGE SCENERY?
TIME TO FIT YOUR COSTUME!
WE NEED MORE BOOZE!

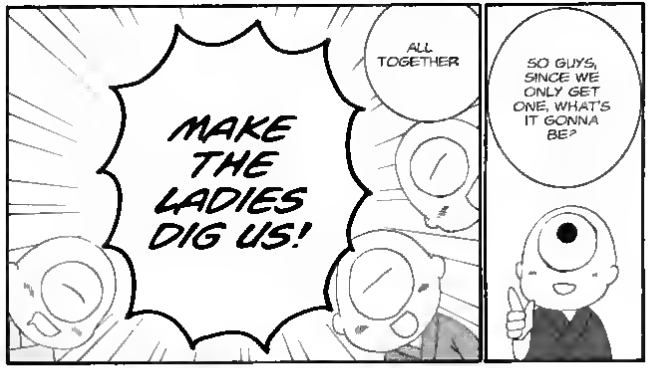

SURE AND YOU SAY IT'S THIS ONE PLACE... BUT YOU TELL THEM IT'S THIS OTHER PLACE...
US THREE COULD TELL EVERYONE THEY MOVED THE FESTIVAL!
YEAH, YEAH! HOW 'BOUT WE TRY KEEPING THEM AWAY FROM THERE?
GUYS, GUYS, WITHOUT THOSE FOREST CRITTERS AROUND IT'D JUST BE US IN FRONT OF THE TREE.


WHOA, SWEET! LET'S GET UP THAT MOUNTAIN!
AND WHILE THEY DO THAT, WE GET TO MAKE OUR WISH!
RELAX, THOSE GUYS ARE IDIOTS! THEY'LL BE ALL "IT'S OVER HERE!" "NO WAY, IT'S OVER THERE!"
YAH, BUT WILL THEY BELIEVE US?

EHEH... EHEH HEH.
HEY, QUIT GETTING WASTED ALREADY! Dumbass!

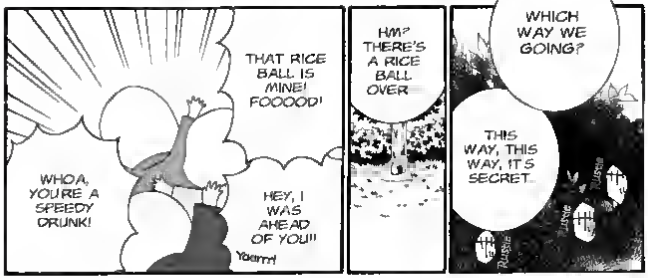

I'M NOT SURE IF THOSE CYCLOPS BOYS WERE SERIOUS...
EITHER WAY, WE MUST PREVENT ANY OCCURRENCE OF THAT SORT!
chew chew
What are they, delinquents?
...WE OVERHEARD QUITE THE AMAZING CONVERSATION
WHILE WE WERE EATING LUNCH...

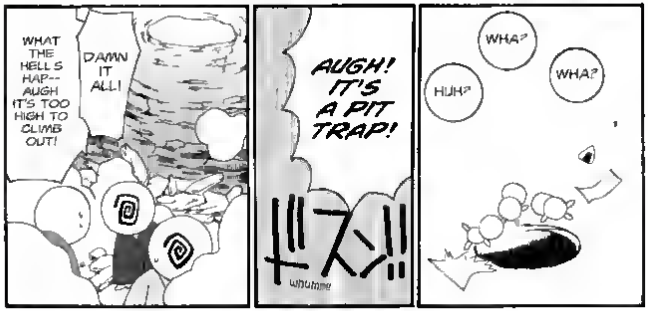

WHO'D YA HEAR THAT FROM THE SAKE BARREL?
REALLY, YEAH! SERIOUSLY REALLY TRUE BLUE!
HEY, RED! YOU REALLY MEAN IT WHEN YOU SAID...
...HERE'S WHERE THEY'LL GRANT A WISH TONIGHT?
DON'T LISTEN TO THE BARREL MAN, THAT GUY LIES!
C'MON! I AIN'T PULLING YER LEGS HERE!


MAKE THE LADIES DIG US!
ALL TOGETHER
SO GUYS, SINCE WE ONLY GET ONE, WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?

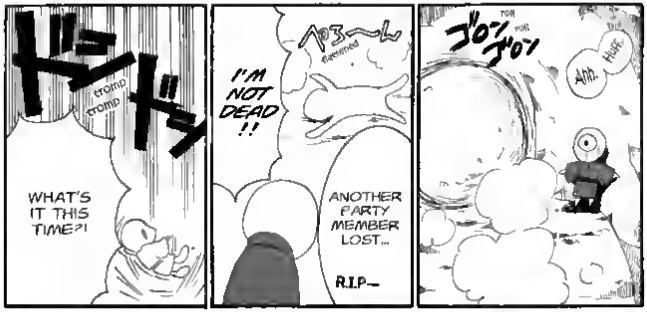
DON'T GO GET WASTED ON ME!!
glazed
RIGHT YELLOW? HEY!
YA GOT PROBLEMS WITH THAT?
DAMN SLACKER, WE'RE DYIN' HERE!!
BUT WHAT'S THE RUSH?

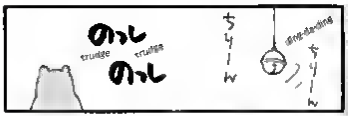
...MAY HAVE A POINT THERE...
YOU...


THAT RICE BALL IS MINE! FOOOOD!
WHOA, YOU'RE A SPEEDY DRUNK!
HEY, I WAS AHEAD OF YOU!!
Yoink!
HM? THERE'S A RICE BALL OVER...
WHICH WAY WE GOING?
THIS WAY, THIS WAY, IT'S SECRET...
Rustle
Rustle


WHAT THE HELL'S HAP--AUGH IT'S TOO HIGH TO CLIMB OUT!
DAMN IT ALL!
AUGH! IT'S A PIT TRAP!
WHUMMM
HUH?
WHA?
WHA?

SO. HOW BEST TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE SACRED TREE UNTIL TONIGHT?
OR WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO STOP THEM FROM SENDING OUR FOREST FRIENDS TO THE WRONG PLACE?
WELL, I...
BUT YOU'RE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT IT, RIGHT? --ENOUGH TO KEEP TABS ON WHAT I'M UP TO, ANYWAY
OH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SATORI-CHAN?
Hmmm
Beans for brains
BROTHER IS PERFORMING THE RITUAL DANCE. THIS FESTIVAL DOES NOT CONCERN ME
AND IT'D BE A CRYING SHAME IF THOSE GUYS GOT THEIR WISH GRANTED


WHAT'S IT THIS TIME?!
I'M NOT DEAD!!
ANOTHER PARTY MEMBER LOST...
R.I.P.—
HUFF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ちゅーん
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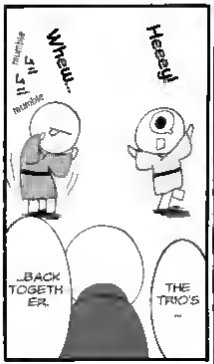
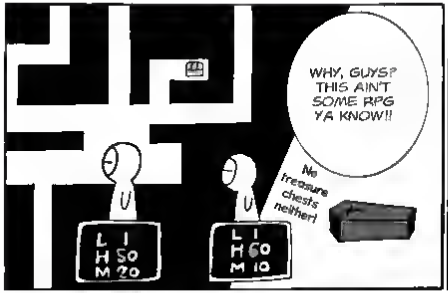

Whew..
Heesy!
..BACK TOGETH ER.
THE TRIO'S ..
I'M NOT SURE WE SHD BE DOIN' THIS GUYZ...

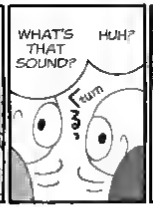
WHEW! LUCKY FOR US I BROUGHT THIS BEAR BELL.
HOORAY
HOORAY

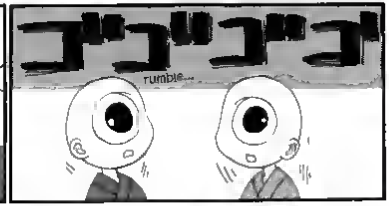
のっし
OH NO!!
IT'S A BEAR!!

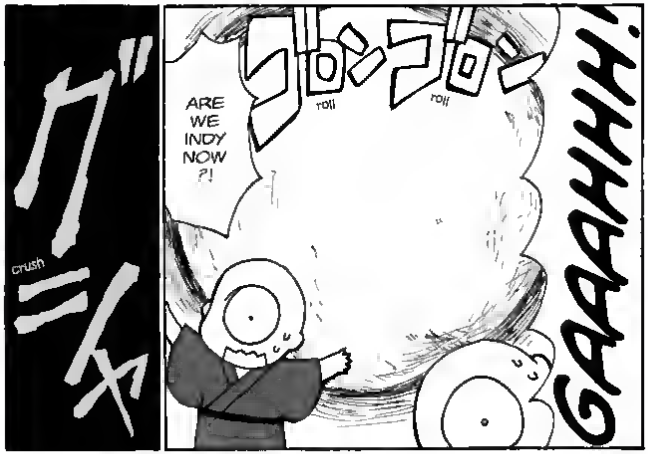

WHY, GUYS? THIS AIN'T SOME RPG YA KNOW!!
No treasure chests neither!
L I SO M 20
L I 60 M 10

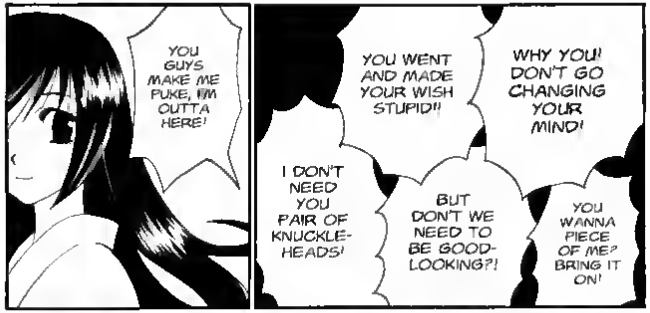
BUT YELLOW'S OUT COLD
HEY, THERE'S A CAVE OVER HERE! WE BETTER GET MOVING
JUST LEAVE HIM, HE'LL CATCH UP SOON ENOUGH.

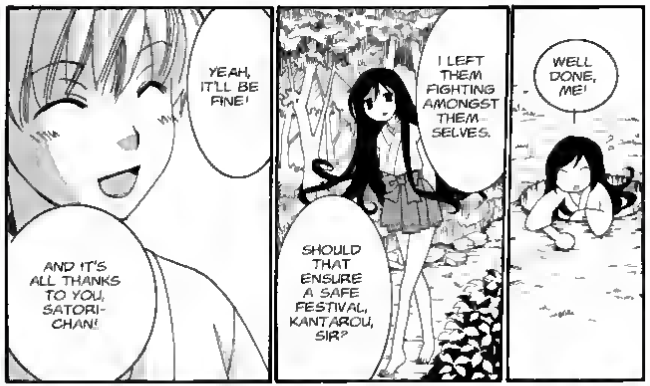
rumble

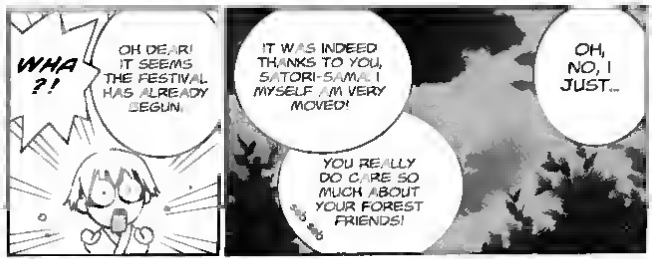

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
HUH?

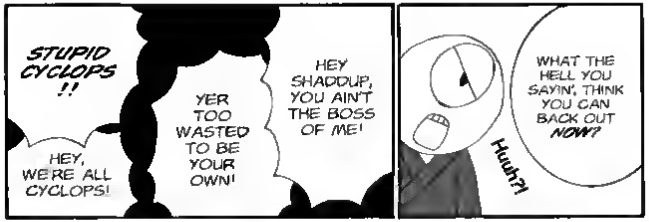

rumble...

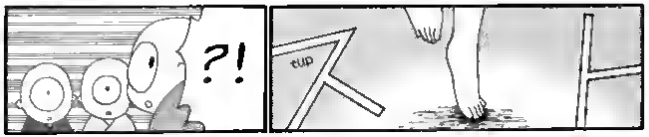

crush
ARE WE INDY NOW?!
roll
roll
GAHAHAH!


YOU GUYS MAKE ME PUKE, I'M OUTTA HERE!
YOU WENT AND MADE YOUR WISH STUPID!!
I DON'T NEED YOU PAIR OF KNUCKLE-HEADS!
WHY YOU! DON'T GO CHANGING YOUR MIND!
BUT DON'T WE NEED TO BE GOOD-LOOKING?!
YOU WANNA PIECE OF ME? BRING IT ON!


YEAH, IT'LL BE FINE!
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, SATORI-CHAN!
I LEFT THEM FIGHTING AMONGST THEM-SELVES.
SHOULD THAT ENSURE A SAFE FESTIVAL, KANTAROU, SIR?
WELL DONE, ME!


WHA?!
OH DEAR! IT SEEMS THE FESTIVAL HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
IT WAS INDEED THANKS TO YOU, SATORI-SAMA! I MYSELF AM VERY MOVED!
YOU REALLY DO CARE SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR FOREST FRIENDS!
OH, NO, I JUST...


STUPID CYCLOPS!!
HEY, WE'RE ALL CYCLOPS!
YER TOO WASTED TO BE YOUR OWN!
HEY SHADDUP, YOU AIN'T THE BOSS OF ME!
Huuh?!
WHAT THE HELL YOU SAYIN', THINK YOU CAN BACK OUT NOW?


?!
TUP

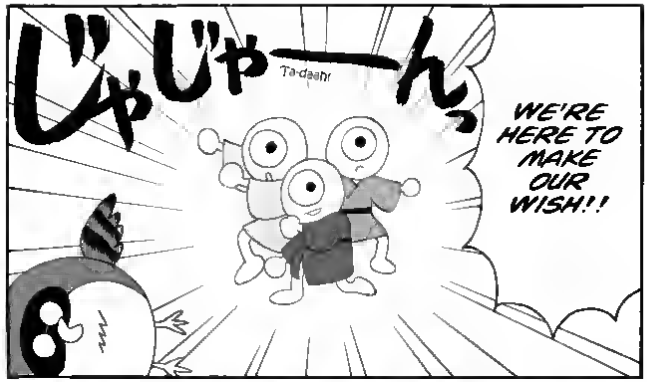
FIRST, MISTER RED, YOU WANT TO BE A HERO AND POPULAR WITH GIRLS.
MISTER BLUE, YOU WANT TO BE WEALTHY AND POPULAR WITH GIRLS.
AND MISTER YELLOW, YOU WANT TO BE GOOD-LOOKING AND POPULAR WITH GIRLS.
I AM SATORI... I CAN SEE INTO YOUR MINDS.
H-HEY, WHAT'S WITH THIS CHICK?
Words of a perfectly good skimpy outfit.

AHEM...
THE PARTY MAY BE IN FULL SWING, BUT FIRST..
HERE'S TO THE GREAT DEMON-EATING TENGU, DANCING AT OUR HUNDRED YEAR SACRED TREE FESTIVAL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A THOUSAND YEARS!!
Let's give him a round of applause!
Yeaah!
clap
clap
clap
AND NOW, IT'S TIME TO REQUEST BOUNTIFUL HARVESTS AND PEACE IN--
dash
dash
dash
bump
HEY!

.....SATORI, I'M SAD THAT YOU THINK OF MOTHER AS JUST A TREE

LONG AGO, I ALSO USED TO THINK OF HER AS NOTHING BUT A TREE. JUST AS YOU DO NOW

AND SO, MOTHER...
...WHAT?

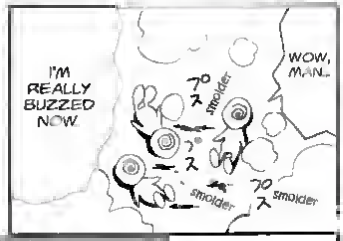

じゃじゃーん
Ta-daah!
WE'RE HERE TO MAKE OUR WISH!!

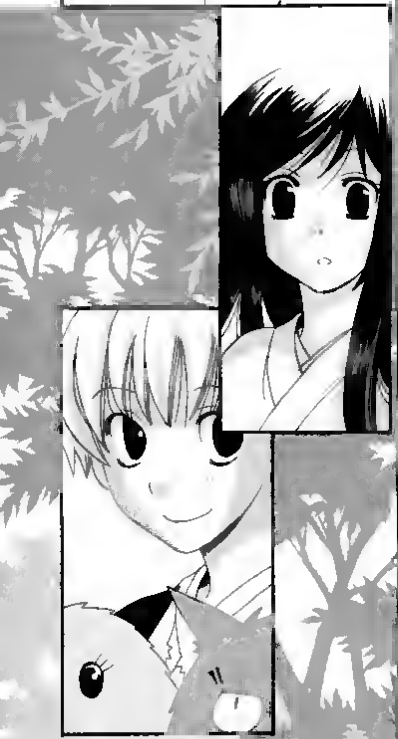
YOU GUYS STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP?!

MAKE CHICKS DIG US!
HERE WE GO!
READY?
Wh-What spirit and determination... It's really quite touching...
IN THE END, WE SHARE THE SAME GOAL!
We finally realized that!
wave
wave

OH, MOTHER...
UH... N-NO ?!
YOU DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT THE SACRED TREE TO GRANT SUCH A MORONIC WISH, NOW DID YOU?
ブンカンジー!!
AWW, THIS SORT OF WISH IS NICE TOO, FROM TIME TO TIME.
But what about OUR wish?!
HUH?

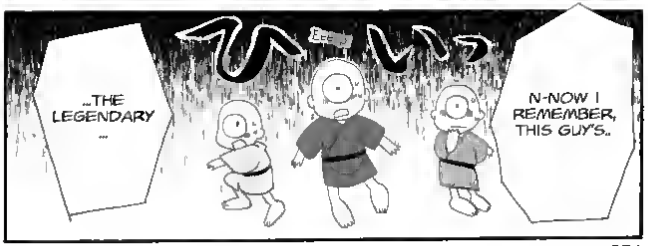
PLEASE SHOW SATORI THE SAME KINDNESS...
...THAT YOU GAVE TO ME.

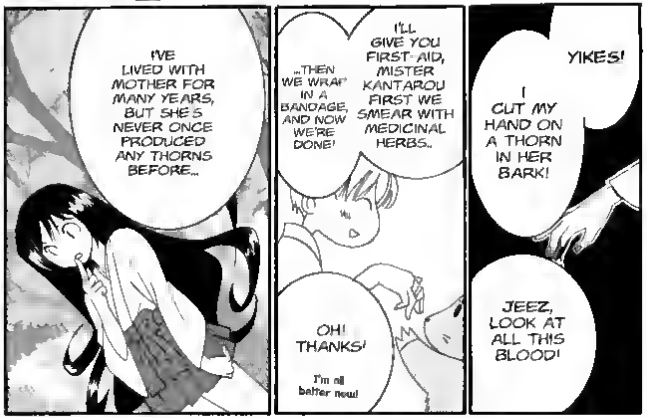

I'M REALLY BUZZED NOW.
WOW, MAN..
smolder
smolder
smolder



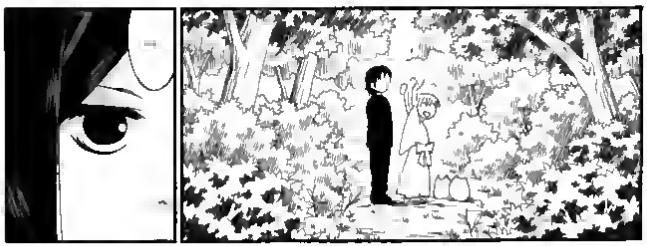
DEMON-EATING TENGUUUU!!
ZAP

YOU THINK THAT'LL SETTLE EVERY-THING?
DON'T COUNT ON IT.
janine
シャラ

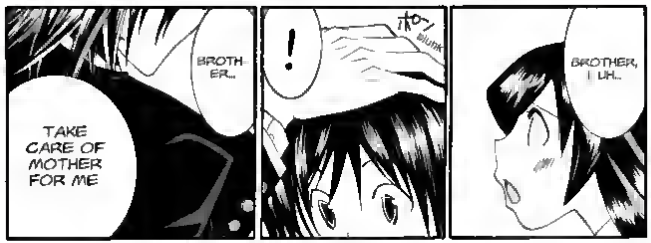

..THE LEGENDARY ..
Eee
N-NOW I REMEMBER, THIS GUY'S..


I'VE LIVED WITH MOTHER FOR MANY YEARS, BUT SHE'S NEVER ONCE PRODUCED ANY THORNS BEFORE...
I'LL GIVE YOU FIRST-AID, MISTER KANTAROU FIRST WE SMEAR WITH MEDICINAL HERBS..
...THEN WE WRAP IN A BANDAGE, AND NOW WE'RE DONE!
OH! THANKS!
I'm all better now!
YIKES!
I CUT MY HAND ON A THORN IN HER BARK!
JEEZ, LOOK AT ALL THIS BLOOD!

I'M... WICKED, YOU SEE
EH, WELL, CAN'T REALLY BLAME HER



I'LL VISIT YOU AGAIN, MOTHER

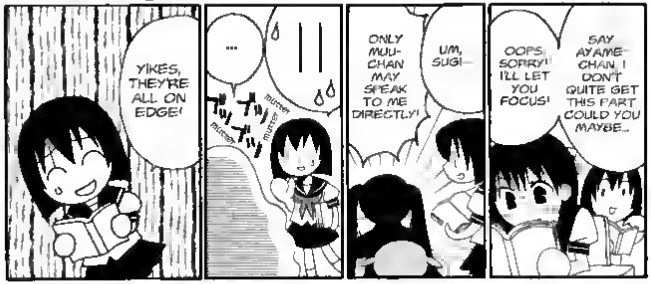

BROTH-ER...
TAKE CARE OF MOTHER FOR ME
!
TOY
BLINK
BROTHER, I UH..

DRICK
OW!
SORRY YOU HAD TO PUT UP WITH ME, HARUKA'S MOTHER.
DON'T YOU WANT TO PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO MOTHER?
HEY, KAN-TAROU!
OH, SURE

...
JUST WHO IS THIS KANTAROU _?

NEVER BEFORE HAVE I MET A HUMAN WHOSE MIND I COULD NOT READ.

SUMMER'S HERE!! THE FINAL EXAM OF YOUTH-HOOD!!

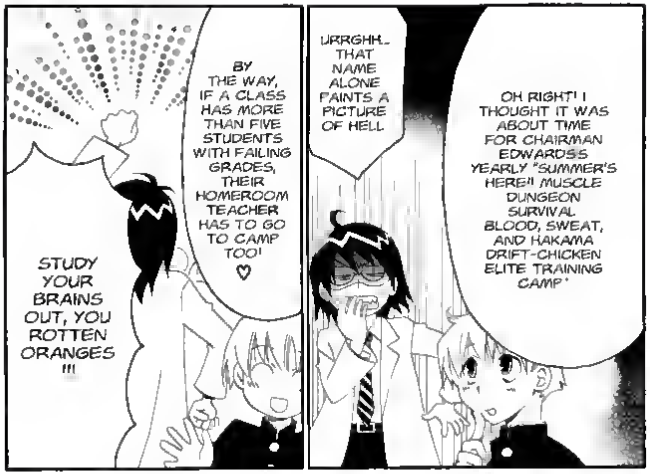

YIKES, THEY'RE ALL ON EDGE!
...
murmur murmur murmur murmur
ONLY MUU-CHAN MAY SPEAK TO ME DIRECTLY!
UM, SUGI—
OOPS, SORRY! I'LL LET YOU FOCUS!
SAY AYAME-CHAN, I DON'T QUITE GET THIS PART COULD YOU MAYBE...

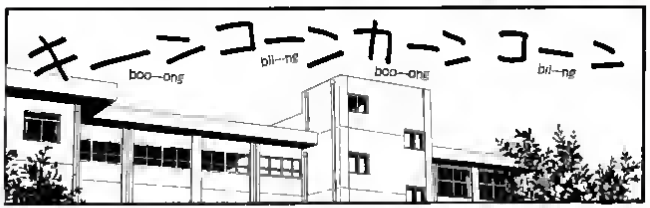
WHAT... THE HECK? WHY DOES EVERYBODY LOOK SO DESPERATE? NONE OF YOU KIDS EVER STRUCK ME AS THE KIND TO CARE ABOUT TESTS...

Real? Whatever could that be? HA HA HA
VERY FEW ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO MAKE IT BACK FROM THAT CAMP
AND THOSE WHO DO ARE MERE SHELLS OF THEIR FORMER SELVES BARELY ABLE TO FUNCTION...
THE CONSEQUENCES OF MESSING UP ON THE SUMMER EXAMS AT THIS ACADEMY IF YOU GET EVEN ONE FAILING GRADE...
...YOU HAVE TO ENDURE A THIRTY-DAY REMEDIAL TRAINING CAMP AT THE CHAIRMAN'S SUMMER HOME!!
RIGHT... YOU'RE STILL PRETTY NEW, I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT YET, HARUKA SENSEI.
A-ABOUT WHAT?
WHA?

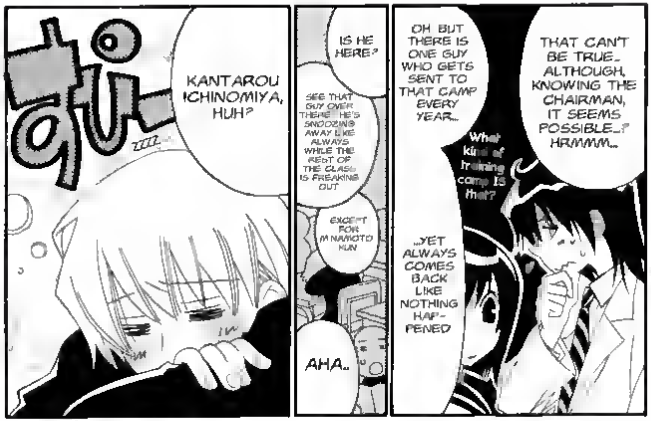
murmur
ザワザワ
murmur
AW JEEZ! THE SUMMER EXAMS ARE TODAY!!
WHAT'LL I DO? I'M SO NOT READY!
RIGHT, SAKATA?
OF COURSE, I'LL BE FINE—WE ELITES GET THE TOP SCORES NO MATTER WHAT WE DO! THAT #1 SPOT IS ALL MINE!!
WHO NEEDS CRAMMING? NOT US!
OH MY, YOU LOOK AWFULLY CALM, MINAMOTO-KUN.
Book Librarian Heroy

LOOKS LIKE HE PULLED AN ALL-NIGHTER CRAMMING LIKE MAD!
Ha ha ha ha
..HUH..?! OH, YES, OF COURSE YOU'RE RIGHT, WE DON'T NEED TO CRAM!! HA HA HA HA HA!


BY THE WAY, IF A CLASS HAS MORE THAN FIVE STUDENTS WITH FAILING GRADES, THEIR HOMEROOM TEACHER HAS TO GO TO CAMP TOO! ♡
STUDY YOUR BRAINS OUT, YOU ROTTEN ORANGES !!!
URRGHH... THAT NAME ALONE PAINTS A PICTURE OF HELL
OH RIGHT! I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME FOR CHAIRMAN EDWARDS'S YEARLY "SUMMER'S HERE!! MUSCLE DUNGEON SURVIVAL BLOOD, SWEAT, AND HAKAMA DRIFT-CHICKEN ELITE TRAINING CAMP"



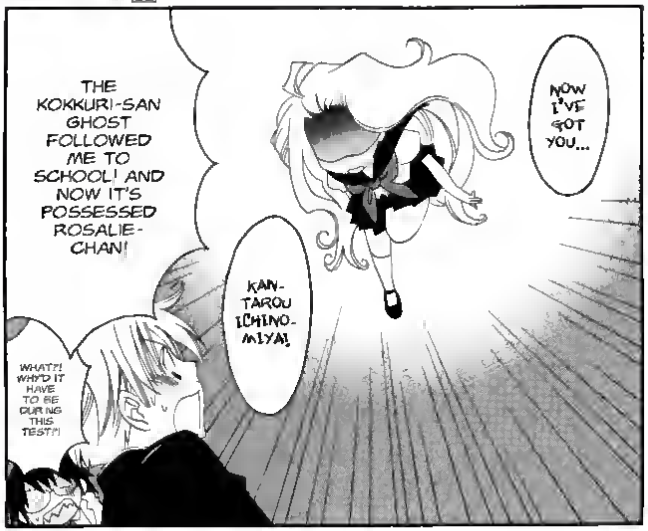
Sensei believes in all of you!
READY...
SO DO YOUR BEST!!
BEGIN!
SUMMER'S TOO AWESOME TO MISS OUT ON BEACHES, POOLS AND KOREAN DRAMA LOCATIONS!
NOW LISTEN UP! I'M GOING TO KOREA THIS SUMMER. IT'S MY FIRST TRIP ABROAD! YOU GUYS DON'T WANT TO WASTE A PAGE OF YOUR OWN YOUNG LIVES EITHER, DO YOU?!

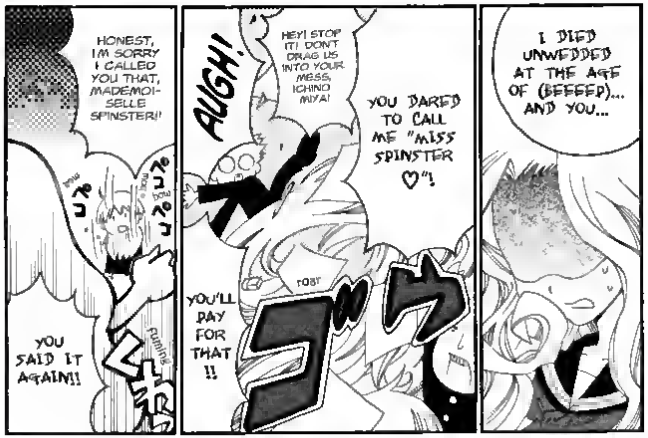

KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA, HUH?
IS HE HERE?
SEE THAT GUY OVER THERE? HE'S SNOOZING AWAY LIKE ALWAYS WHILE THE REST OF THE CLASS IS FREAKING OUT
EXCEPT FOR NAMIMOTO KUN
AHA...
OH BUT THERE IS ONE GUY WHO GETS SENT TO THAT CAMP EVERY YEAR...
What kind of training camp is that?
...YET ALWAYS COMES BACK LIKE NOTHING HAP-PENED
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE... ALTHOUGH, KNOWING THE CHAIRMAN, IT SEEMS POSSIBLE...? HRMMM...

I hate ghosts, they're so relentless
Yaaaun
GUT ME SOME SLACK, YOUKO-CHAN... I WAS PLAYING "KOKKURI-SAN" LAST NIGHT AND THIS WEIRD GHOST POPPED OUT AND THEN WE STARTED ARGUING...
IT KEPT CHASING ME ALL NIGHT UNTIL I FINALLY GAVE IT THE SLIP TO GET TO SCHOOL. I'M EXHAUSTED JUST LET ME SLEEP, ALL RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT KAN-CHAN LIKE HE'S A NORMAL PERSON, SENSEI!! HEY, KAN-CHAN! WAKE UP!!
whap whap
HM...?
ARE YOU SURE HE DIDN'T STUDY FOR THE TEST? IT LOOKS LIKE HE PULLED AN ALL NIGHTER, JUDGING BY THOSE DARK CIRCLES UNDER HIS EYES.

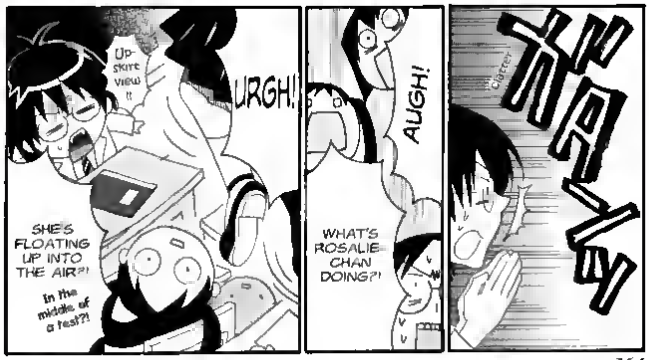
*Kokkuri-san is a Ouija-like game

THESE ARE SUMMER EXAMS. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO FAIL AND WASTE ANOTHER SUMMER VACATION?!
KAN-CHAN SPEAKING AS YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND...
Though you may have forgotten that
...AND OF NO INTEREST TO ME
KOKKURI-SAN? YOUR PRIVATE LIFE IS CERTAINLY MYSTERIOUS...


THE KOKKURI-SAN GHOST FOLLOWED ME TO SCHOOL! AND NOW IT'S POSSESSED ROSALIE-CHAN!
NOW I'VE GOT YOU...
KAN-TAROU ICHINO-MIYA!
WHAT?! WHY'D IT HAVE TO BE DURING THIS TEST?!


HONEST, I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU THAT, MADEMOI-SELLE SPINSTER!
YOU SAID IT AGAIN!!
AUGH!
HEY! STOP IT! DON'T DRAG US INTO YOUR MESS, ICHINO MIYA!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT !!
YOU DARED TO CALL ME "MISS SPINSTER ♡"!
I DIED UNWEDDED AT THE AGE OF (BEEEEP)... AND YOU...

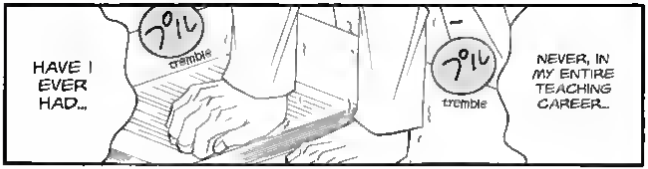
scritch
Hmm
gooOOm
Yaaawn
Over and done.
Perfect.
KRT
Mmmm
Hmmm
...


Up-skirt view !!
URGH!
SHE'S FLOATING UP INTO THE AIR?!
In the middle of a test?!
AUGH!
WHAT'S ROSALIE-CHAN DOING?!
Clatter

blast!
UH...
Stunned Out
すっちゃめ系
Eeek!
Gah!
You idiot!
Save me!
ICK! MY EXAM PAPERS ARE ALL STICKY!!
KOKKURI SAN WILL YOU HURRY UP AND GET LOST!?
EWW! WHAT'S THIS STUFF?!
IT'S TOO LATE!
IT'S ALL STINKY AND STICKY!!
AUGH! THE CRIB NOTES ON MY ERASER COVER ARE ALL SLIMY!
gloop
ねば
OH WELL, YOUTHFUL EXPERIENCES ARE MEANT TO BE SHARED!!
GOOD LUCK, HARUKA-SENSEI!
Crash
Wham
Boom
NOOO! NOT MY TRIP TO KOREA...!
END

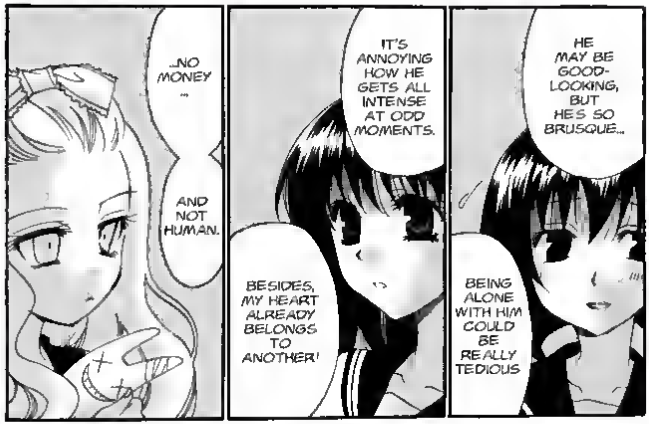
はばたけ!戦術学園
Fly Away! Tactics Academy
grump
grump
AVOID THE WINTER MAKEUP EXAMS!

murmur


HAVE I EVER HAD...
tremble
tremble
NEVER, IN MY ENTIRE TEACHING CAREER...

WHY SHOULD I GET PUNISHED BECAUSE SOME OTHER GUY--
THAT'S SO NOT FAIR!
Who-Ow!
Suuuh
WH-WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
..80%.
HUH?
IF EVEN ONE OF YOU GUYS GETS LESS THAN 80% ON THE NEXT EXAM...
NO WINTER BREAK FOR ANY-BODY!!
ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL.
blurrr
Sensei really means it!
UH, YES SIR!
AW, MAAAN...

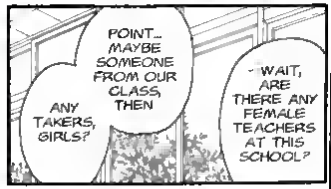
THE OTHER TEACHERS WILL MOCK ME, THE CHAIRMAN WILL BE ANGRY WITH ME...
WHICH MEANS MY SALARY WILL BE CUT! YOU DUMB-ASSES HAD BETTER MAKE UP FOR THIS!
IT'S UN-HEARD-OF!
AN ENTIRE CLASS FAIL AN EXAM!!
Sugino
0
10
30
C CALM DOWN HARUKA-SENSEI
soap
I COULDN'T MAKE IT TO SCHOOL THAT DAY
IT COIN-CIDED WITH MY VACA-TION
Ahh ha! ♡
WELL, I GOT SWAMPED AT MY PART-TIME JOB, SO I KINDA SLEPT THROUGH THE WHOLE EXAM...
MY TEST WAS BLANK.
B-BUT THERE'S TWO SMART STUDENTS IN THIS CLASS, DON'T THEY BRING UP THE AVERAGE?


...NO MONEY...
AND NOT HUMAN.
IT'S ANNOYING HOW HE GETS ALL INTENSE AT ODD MOMENTS.
BESIDES, MY HEART ALREADY BELONGS TO ANOTHER!
HE MAY BE GOOD-LOOKING, BUT HE'S SO BRUSQUE...
BEING ALONE WITH HIM COULD BE REALLY TEDIOUS

WE'LL CALL IT, "THE DISCUSSION OF HOW TO MAKE HARUKA-SENSEI POPULAR!"
EVERY-BODY CHIP IN WITH YOUR IDEAS!
OKAY, SO WE NEED TO MAKE HARUKA-SENSEI MORE ATTRACTIVE SOMEHOW
LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO!
BUT THEN, I'M NOT ONE TO TALK ABOUT BEING REPULSIVE TO REAL ACTUAL GIRLS.
Daaang..
I'M FEELING KINDA BAD FOR SENSEI NOW
The Haruka-Sensei Popularity Project!
I SEE! THAT'S BRILLIANT, KANTAROU!

YEAH, REALLY...
IT SEEMS A BIT UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT EVERYONE TO GET AT LEAST 80%.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME, I WAS IN THE HALLWAY EARLIER..
DON'T YOU GUYS GO HOLDING ME BACK NOW!
HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS.. I'VE NEVER GOTTEN ABOVE 80% IN MY LIFE
NEITHER HAS ROSA JAPANESE IS HARD

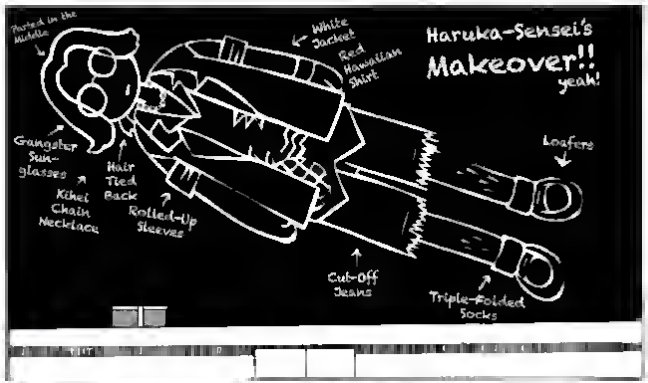
THAT COULD BE THE REASON WHY HE WAS SO PISSY WITH US.
GOTCHA!
Well, I'M having dinner at the Conrad Hotel! Ha ha ha!
HARUKA-SENSEI JUST GROUSED, "I DON'T HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF PLANS."
...WHEN I OVERHEARD HARUKA-SENSEI AND HASUMI-SENSEI DISCUSSING THEIR CHRISTMAS PLANS

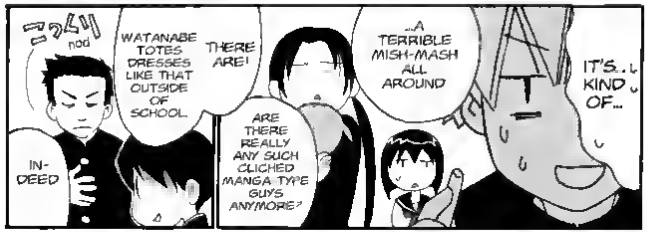

ANY TAKERS, GIRLS?
POINT... MAYBE SOMEONE FROM OUR CLASS, THEN
WAIT, ARE THERE ANY FEMALE TEACHERS AT THIS SCHOOL?

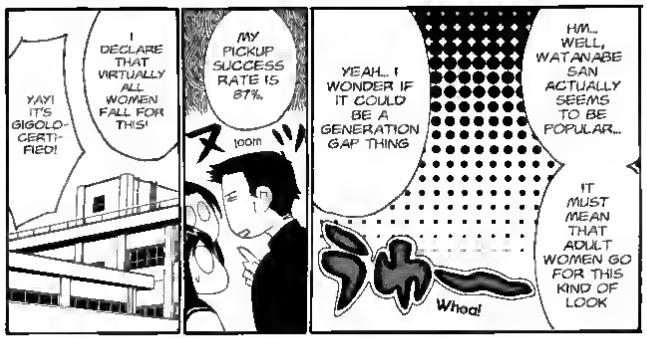
HE IS GOOD-LOOKING IS THERE SOME-THING ELSE WRONG?
HUH? BUT WHY NOT?
silence

SO, IF WE CAN FURNISH SENSEI WITH A GIRLFRIEND IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS..
You guys can have all the vacation time you want
I'm just so super happy that I can't help spreading the joy around
..HE'LL BE IN A BETTER MOOD AND GIVE US BACK OUR WINTER BREAK!!

YOU DID ASK NICELY WHEN YOU TOLD ME TO DO THIS BUT...
...WHAT THE HECK WERE YOU THINKING?
sshhk
What the heck were we thinking?!
SEE YOU LATER, HARUKA-SENSEI!!
whump
AUGH!
ACK!
!
SHEESH, JUST QUIT THIS MESSING AROUND, AND STUD--
grab
TARGET SIGHTED!!


Parted in the Middle
White Jacket
Red Hawaiian Shirt
Haruka-Sensei's Makeover!! yeah!
Gangster Sun-glasses
Kihei Chain Necklace
Hair Tied Back
Rolled-Up Sleeves
Loafers
Cut-Off Jeans
Triple-Folded Socks


nod
IN-DEED
WATANABE TOTES DRESSES LIKE THAT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL
THERE ARE!
ARE THERE REALLY ANY SUCH CLICHED MANGA TYPE GUYS ANYMORE?
...A TERRIBLE MISH-MASH ALL AROUND
IT'S...I KIND OF...


YAY! IT'S GIGOLO-CERTI-FIED!
I DECLARE THAT VIRTUALLY ALL WOMEN FALL FOR THIS!
MY PICKUP SUCCESS RATE IS 87%.
toom
YEAH... I WONDER IF IT COULD BE A GENERATION GAP THING
Whoa!
HM... WELL, WATANABE SAN ACTUALLY SEEMS TO BE POPULAR...
IT MUST MEAN THAT ADULT WOMEN GO FOR THIS KIND OF LOOK

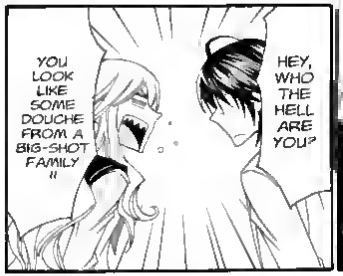
W-WE WERE JUST..
..HOPING TO HELP YOU, SENSEI, SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS.
scuff
jolt
ugh...
slouch...

...WE'D GET YOU A GIRL-FRIEND...!!
SO WE THOUGHT WE'D..
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble

EEP!
plop

キラ
sparkle
sparkle
キラ

キラ
sparkle
sparkle
キラ


YOU LOOK LIKE SOME DOUCHE FROM A BIG-SHOT FAMILY
HEY, WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

YOU DON'T SAY...
UH, SAY, WATANABE-SAN?
IBARAGI-DONO AND I ARE NOT ON THE BEST OF TERMS.

UH...

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING NEXT TIME
FRIGGIN' MORON!

SENSE!
...!
!
THANKS! I APPRECIATE THAT YOU KIDS WERE THINKING OF ME.
...IN THE CLASSROOM, FOR A STUDY SESSION?
SO, HOW ABOUT YOU ALL JOIN ME THIS CHRISTMAS.
ON THAT DAY, THE STUDENTS LEARNED THAT NOTHING IS SCARIER THAN HARUKA-SENSEI'S SMILE.
AUGH! I'M SORRY, SENSEI, I'M SORRY!!
Anything but that!!
HE'S ACTUALLY SERIOUS ...?!
BOY, I JUST CAN'T WAIT FOR THE HOLI-DAYS!!
shiver